



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Most Barflies Say Smoking Ban Is a Drag

By Anne Gates

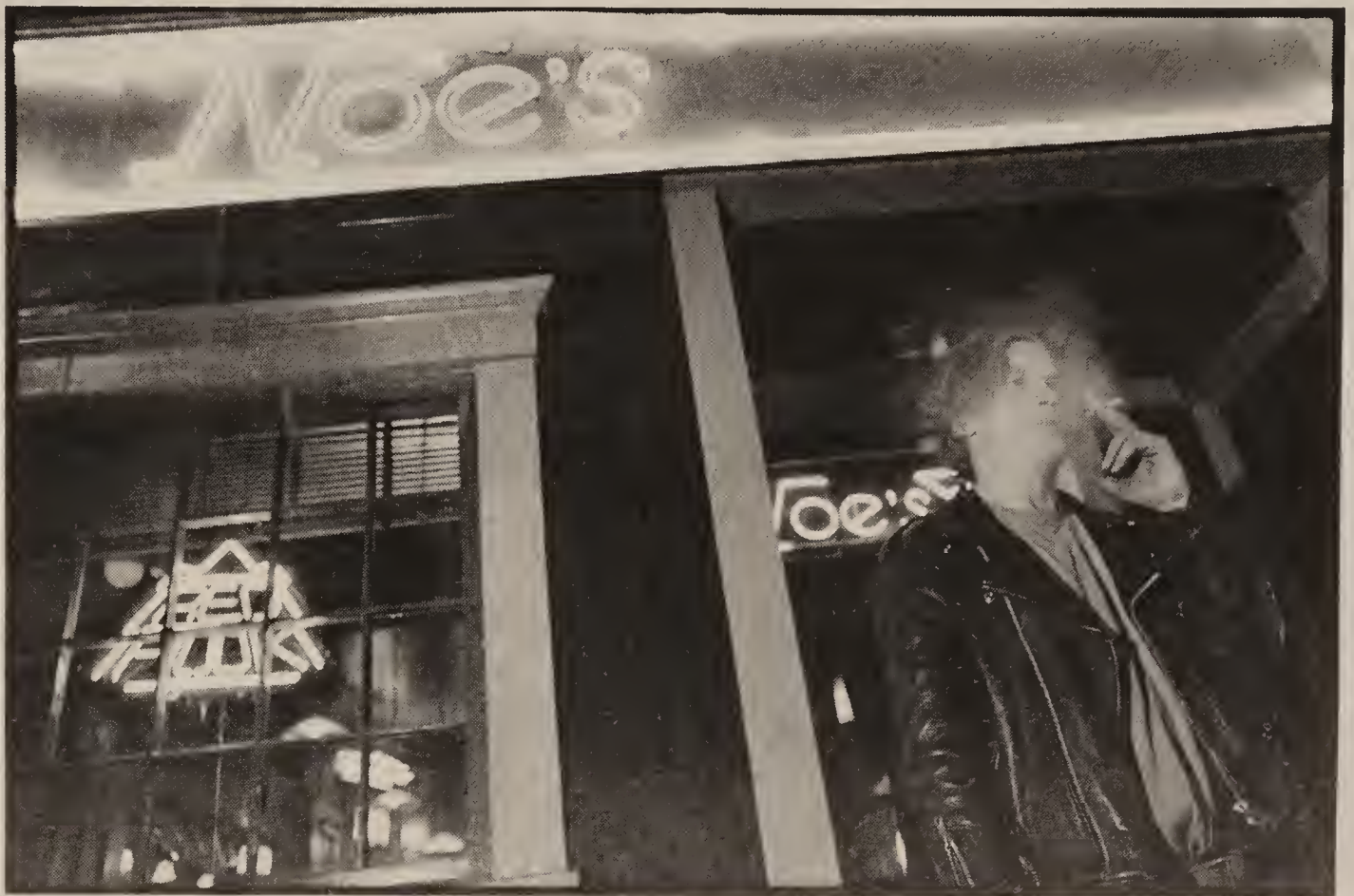
It's a January night and a cold drizzle is falling on Charles, who's huddled outside Noe's Bar at 24th and Church with a damp cigarette in his hand. His drink sits on the bar inside.

"This sucks," says Charles, with a rueful smile.

Poor Charles. It's no fun being one of America's Least Wanted. He's a casualty of Section 6405.5 of the California Labor Code, the law that bans smoking in places of employment. On Jan. 1, 1998, lighting up in a bar became a crime.

How are other bar patrons adjusting to the smoking ban? That's what my editor wanted to know. I was curious, too. So I set out on a tour of 24th Street taverns. It was a dark and stormy night (just like every other night in January). I brought along a friend for companionship, in case the bars turned out to be empty.

We decided to restrict our investigation to the five drinking establishments in "Downtown" Noe Valley. No brass and glass fern bars here, no slick red-leather lounge spots. Just your basic pool tables,



Patrick McGuire at Noe's on Church Street doesn't appear to be hazy about the new no-smoking law. But patrons at several other Noe Valley taverns were openly flouting the ban last month.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

dartboards, and jukeboxes to go with your Red Hook or Irish coffee. On a big night, you might find live music or a satellite broadcast of the English soccer final. These

bars are the definition of small neighborhood pubs, friendly and enduring. And

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### *Behind the Yellow Door*

## All Eyes on 24th Street Complex

By Pat Rose

The noise of jackhammers, bulldozers, and trucks caused by the construction of a new retail/residential complex next to Bell Market has finally stopped. After more than a year of maneuvering through traffic tie-ups and muddy sidewalk detours around the site, neighbors and merchants alike want to know what's up at 3930 24th St., where the pale-yellow building stands quiet and empty.

The four-story building includes 5,000 square feet of street-level retail space along with 19 one- and two-bedroom apartments on the upper levels. According to builder and owner Joe Cassidy, of Cassidy Construction, while half of the residential apartments have been rented out, he has yet to lease any of the retail spaces.

"We've had interest from lots of retailers — restaurants, clothing stores, and shoe stores, but I think there are enough of those kinds of stores already on 24th Street," Cassidy said. "We don't want to compete with existing businesses."

While that sentiment is appreciated by merchants on the street, there is concern that Cassidy might put one large tenant in the space rather than three or four smaller businesses.

*Continued on Page 7*



On Feb. 1, former owner Dino Farmas (left) and manager Adam Bousiakakis (in white) bequeathed the popular Noe Valley Pizza Restaurant to Dennis Vozaite (center) and father Tony Vozaite (seated at right, with friend George Kouloulis).

Photo by Beverly Thorp

## The Last Suppers: Pizza to Go

By Richard Dodds

A trip to the Noe Valley Pizza Restaurant has always been about more than pizza and pasta. For 18 years, the couple who owned the restaurant at 24th and Sanchez streets made customers feel like a part of the family. Now that family has left the neighborhood.

Dino and Maria Farmas served their last meal as owners of Noe Valley Pizza on Jan. 31, and though the new owners plan to keep the restaurant's name, look, and menu, the history and loyalties that come with 18 years cannot be easily duplicated.

"I know people who were dating when

they first started coming here, and now their kids are going to college," Maria said one evening last month at the restaurant. "Our customers have been the nicest people to deal with. I hope that the new owners appreciate these nice people."

Dennis Vozaite was due to become the new proprietor on Feb. 1, and no interruption in service was expected. "I know a lot of the customers like it as it is," said Vozaite, whose father owns the building. "I hope to keep everybody happy."

Meanwhile, Dino and Maria Farmas will be focusing full-time on Bambino's, an Italian restaurant they opened five

*Continued on Page 13*

## Ministry Neighbors Still on Antenna Alert

By Denise Minor

Neighbors of the Noe Valley Ministry may have won their battle to keep six cellular telephone antennas from being installed in the church steeple. But they say their work is not done.

"We plan to meet with Noe Valley merchants and let them know that we strongly oppose these antennas going in anywhere in the neighborhood, not just the Ministry," said Elizabeth Street resident Judy Irving in mid-January.

Irving is a member of Noe Valley Families Against the Antennas, a group that organized in September to fight an agreement between the Ministry and two mobile phone companies: Pac Bell Mobile Services and Cellular One. They wrote letters to city officials, picketed the Ministry every Sunday for two months, and collected about 880 petition signatures.

The group also collected data from scientists around the world that indicated there might be health hazards caused by electromagnetic radiation from cell phone antennas.

In early December both companies withdrew their applications to install antennas on the church roof. The Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez St., between Elizabeth and 23rd streets.

"We have to respect the feelings of the neighborhood," said David Hatch, property development manager at Cellular

*Continued on Page 9*



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*Photo by Pamela Gerard*

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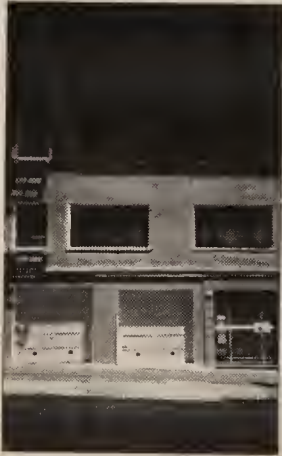
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with Bill Flanigan

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This can be an open forum that will present answers to your specific questions regarding real estate in San Francisco. Please feel free to call or write me with any real estate matters, or visit me on the web: [BILLFLANIGAN@pacbell.net](mailto:BILLFLANIGAN@pacbell.net) or <http://www.zephyr-re.com/agents/BILLFLANIGAN.html>

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## LETTERS 32¢

### Read the Fine Print on Library Renovation

Editor:

Having been, along with numerous colleagues, at some loggerheads with the San Francisco Library Chief of Branches Marcia Schneider since the New Main Library opened in 1996, we can offer some seasoned advice to advocates of the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street ["Demolish the Library? Not If Local Patrons Have a Say," December/January *Voice*].

Get the following guarantees in writing and have these documents certified as binding and enforceable by an independent attorney:

1) That Noe Valley residents will see full and complete plans of any proposed renovation—and a full-scale model—before a single hammer is put to nail;

2) That a pre-move inventory of the Noe Valley branch holdings (books and periodicals) will be made available prior to closure of the building for renovation; and

3) That a means to check that inventory will be made available once the Noe Valley Library is reopened (so that the collections or catalogs aren't quietly replaced by computers as at the New Main).

If the public had won these guarantees in writing before the New Main Library at the Civic Center was built, the planners and builders would have been held to the standards that voters intended when they passed the initial bonds in 1988 for the New Main and branches. I urge Noe Valley residents and neighbors to learn from our New Main experiences — so that these tragedies are not, sadly, repeated at your very special Noe Valley branch.

Walter Biller

Member, Edith Cedar Group/  
Library Advocates, San Francisco

### Bench Memorial Not a Private Matter

Editor:

Below are two quotes from the "Rumors" column in the December/January *Voice*, concerning a memorial to Audrey Rodgers proposed for 21st and Sanchez.

"The memorial bench was supposed to go in the 10-by-30-foot public right of way on the west side of Sanchez near

21st. *Voice* readers will recall that the now vacant patch of land is actually on property belonging to one of four large houses built by contractor Seamus McGee."

"At year's end, Monte and Louise Zweben purchased the corner house (on whose land the right of way exists)."

Parts of these statements are false. The land in question belongs to the City and County of San Francisco, and is classified as undeveloped sidewalk—yes, 31.5 feet wide and *previously* (prior to construction of McGee's houses) about 12 feet above street level at the highest point. From all the prior writings of Mazook about the corner, it appears that the author has never grasped (or accepted) this critical fact, which is the basis for much of the concerns of the neighbors. It is not private property; it is public land. If it is to be accorded the privilege of private property, it must be purchased from the city through a process known as vacating land by the city.

While I support the Dolores Heights Improvement Club, am a member, have served on its board, and believe all in the neighborhood should be members, the truth of the matter is that many of the neighbors in closest proximity to the site are not members of the club.

Additionally, some who are members were not at the meeting when the bench project was endorsed. Further, notes taken at that general meeting on Sept. 25, 1996, reflect that Janice Bracken, Audrey Rodgers' daughter, stated that the space needed for the memorial bench was "a spot—the size of a bench."

Well, after that meeting, the "spot" grew, but no further proposal was presented to the general membership. The Zwebens were wise to have done their survey of the neighbors.

I very much enjoy the *Noe Valley Voice*, but your "Rumors" column quite often has misstatements of facts critical to complete understanding of the issues. Because the column looks and feels like real news, I fear that many of your readers may take it all as facts.

Charles Freeman Stamper  
Sanchez Street

*Editor's Note: Readers should check out this month's Rumors column on pages 50-51 for a resolution of the bench issue.*

### People Have to Create Static

Editor:

Pastor Joan Huff is right: "Everyone would like the uproar to end." [See "Two Sides Are Talking in Cell Phone Antenna Flap" and Letters to the Editor, *Noe Valley Voice* December 1997/January 1998.]

But it may not end as long as our personal and community rights go to the highest bidder. Today it's about an antenna on a church. Tomorrow it may be about who has the right to use marijuana.

The uproar shoots up again and again over education and health care and a string of issues that could take us all the way to Kyoto and back again. It may continue until we face the fundamental question: Who's in charge? Is it the people or the corporations?

We are preceded by many wise men and women who have given us some clues. There was William O. Douglas, professor of law at Columbia and Yale, member of the Supreme Court for many years, and writer of 30 books. *Points of Rebellion* is a concise little book about the struggle for individual rights. In it he says, "The dissent we witness is a protest against the belittling of man, against his debasement, against a society that makes 'lawful' the exploitation of humans."

It was true then, and it is true today.

L.E. Partridge  
Neighborhood resident

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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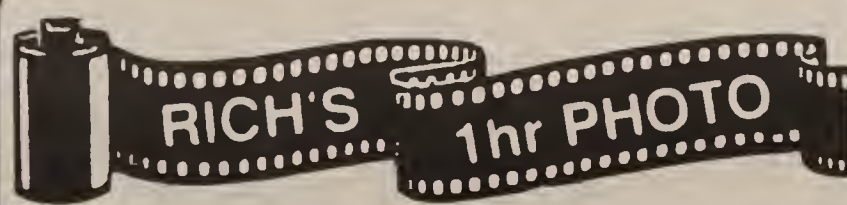
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# Some Local Bars Are Hazy on the Smoking Ban

Continued from Page 1

some of them used to get very very smoky.

Still, Noe Valleons are generally law-abiding citizens. Would they bow to Prohibition and extinguish their cigarettes? Or start a speak-easy, 1998-style?

Armed with a notebook, we roamed from one end of the main drag to the other. By the end of the night we were stumbling a little. It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it.

We are happy to report that all five bars dutifully displayed their shiny new "No Smoking" signs in plain sight. And all of the bartenders said their establishments were now non-smoking. Some had even removed the ashtrays.

However, only one bar seemed to be cooperating fully with the smoking ban. A second bar was trying to comply with the law, with middling success. A third seemed to have mixed feelings—and a slightly hazy atmosphere. But a couple of bars were downright scornful of the ban, which gave us sort of a walk-on-the-wild-side thrill. (We emphasize that this was just one night of research. We wanted to go back again and again, but we've got day jobs, too. Should you venture into a local bar, your results might be different.)

Nearly everyone we spoke to said they wished that each bar could decide whether or not to allow smoking on the premises. That way, the customers could pick which ones to patronize.

At one pub (which will remain anonymous), there was a sign that read: "My customers are my business—repeal the smoking ban." Many patrons here seemed to share this sentiment.

"The ban is an infringement on our rights," said Nate, who smokes. "What will they be taking away next?"

"I smoke very occasionally so I'd like to have the choice," agreed Dave. "Any given bar should be able to decide either 'We allow smoking' or 'We don't allow smoking.'"

Dave wasn't smoking as he said this, but nearly everyone else around us was.

"If the staff at the bar will allow it, there should be smoking permitted," said Annmarie, another smoker against the ban.

A smaller "Repeal the Smoking Ban" sign hung at the Rat & Raven, on 24th near Castro. But here the air was clear.

Nevertheless, bartender Storm was annoyed. "Everyone is unhappy about [the ban]," she said. "Yes, it's nicer, it's cleaner, but people don't come to a bar to be healthy. I knew the circumstances when I started working in a bar."

Storm's been pouring shots at the Rat & Raven for six years, and now she feels like she's caught in a trap.

"I know a lot of people want to have a cigarette with their beer," she added. "Now I'm supposed to police smokers or the bar owner gets fined."

Enforcement of the smoking ban is a sticky subject. The bar owner will get the citations and pay the fines if patrons are smoking in the bar and if the bar staff can't convince them to put the cigarettes out. But bartenders, who make a hefty portion of their income from tips, don't like to police their customers. And the bar owners may or may not like those bartenders who fail to enforce the ban.

One bartender on our tour admitted that during the first two weeks of the ban customers would occasionally sneak cigarettes. But he said he was too busy to track down each and every scofflaw.

"Nobody's smoking in here now...I think," he said, sniffing the air. Then a woman lit up a cigarette a few stools away. After a short while, he asked her to take her smoke outside, and she complied.

This bartender said he actually liked the smoking ban, but he added that he was so used to smelling smoke in the air, it might take him a while to notice infractions.

Another bartender told us, "I'm obligated to inform the patrons of the statute. But I'm not obligated to enforce it."

Yet another said emphatically, "There's no smoking here!" Then he smiled as a cloud of cigarette smoke wafted by.

## City Carries a Big Stick

I later found out that bars which permit smoking—or which can't keep their patrons from smoking—can get a stiff ticket from the city's Health Department, not to mention the police.

Thomas Rivard, senior environmental health inspector for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, said all bars in the city would be inspected twice a year to see if they were complying with the no-smoking law. However, if someone made a complaint, they'd send an inspector to the bar within five working days. Night-time inspections required special arrangements, but they could happen, too.

The first violation carries a fine of \$76, which is meant to be a warning, Rivard said. Also, the bar owner would have to attend a public hearing. A second offense

could cost six times that much.

"Most people, after the first visit from the health inspector, come into compliance very quickly," said Rivard. "We've been trying to educate people."

He noted that Noe Valley was doing pretty well on the complaint front, with just two (by the third week of January). He refused to say, however, which local bar or bars had received the complaints. He did point out, though, that the neighborhood which had registered the most complaints was the Outer Sunset.

The chances of police storming a smoke-filled bar and issuing citations to all the smokers inside are remote, but it's technically possible, Rivard said. "There are additional penalties for habitual violations, where there's been no genuine effort to implement the law. If necessary, we will bring police to the bar and ticket patrons, and we can and will bring notice to the District Attorney's office for prosecution as a public nuisance."

Rivard went on to say that the only exception to the smoking ban would be if the bar had no employees. "That means no employees at all, ever," he said. To allow smoking, the owner must be the only one working in the bar, or everyone working in the bar must be an owner. "This is a labor code issue, like worker safety."

So far, it's still legal to smoke outside, so bars that have an outdoor space would seem to have a built-in advantage in terms of luring smokers. The Rat & Raven has a small back yard (but it closes at 7 p.m.) and the Peaks on Castro Street has a covered rear patio where patrons can smoke.

## Non-Smokers May Do Less Laundry

Meanwhile, back to that drizzly night on the town...

At all five bars, my friend and I managed to find at least one or two non-smokers. They were not doing victory dances on the tables. But they did profess a preference for clean air.

"There's something about people smoking in bars that made the bars what they were, but I prefer non-smoking bars," said Chris, a former smoker sitting at the Rovers Inn, on 24th near Castro. "I used to love to drink and smoke, but I don't like the idea that my secondhand smoke could mess up your life."

Diana, at the Rat, was the happiest non-smoker we found. "I am ecstatic that I can wash my hair, go to a bar, come home, and my hair still smells like shampoo," she said. Rich echoed this comment, as did several others. "It didn't bother me before that people smoked in bars, but this is nice. Tomorrow my clothes won't smell like smoke," he said.

However, even among the non-smokers, there were a few who thought the law unfair. "I'm not a smoker, but people go to bars and they want to have a cigarette. It's a matter of liberty," said Drew, while sipping a drink at the Peaks. Non-smoker Ellie agreed. "I love the ban, but it should be the bar's choice. I enjoy the non-smoking atmosphere, but I don't think it should be mandated by the state."

The state, as it turns out, might not prohibit smoking in bars if a drive to repeal the ban is successful.

But as we paid our tab and left the last bar, we wondered if smoking in bars would soon become a distant memory, like smoking by the office water cooler or on an airplane.

For now, those who won't or can't give up the cigarette habit will be standing out in the rain, just like Charles. □

*Editor's Note: As we were putting this issue to bed, the State Assembly voted to repeal the four-week-old ban on smoking in bars and casinos. But smokers should not leave their umbrellas at home just yet. The measure must still be approved by the State Senate and signed by the governor. And even if passed, the repeal wouldn't go into effect until January 1999.*

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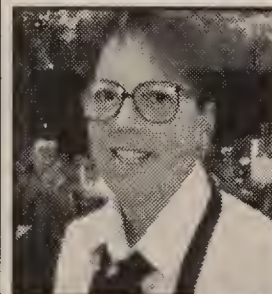
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## High Rents at 24th Street Building Raise Eyebrows

*Continued from Page 1*

Robert Roddick, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, said, "Originally, Cassidy promised the merchants that there would be three to five stores" in the complex. But now that the building is finished, Roddick said, Cassidy has been ducking questions about how many shops he plans to put in.

Roddick, an attorney on Castro Street, added that the merchants' fears were fanned last month by an ad running in the *San Francisco Chronicle* classifieds which offered "up to 5,000 square feet of retail space" for rent in the building.

Several other 24th Street shopkeepers also grumbled about being kept in the dark. One longtime merchant, who asked not to be identified, said that after two years of inquiries Cassidy had never returned her phone calls or responded to her written queries about renting a retail space to expand her business.

When asked by the *Voice* how many retailers he was planning to put in the space, Cassidy replied, "Three or four." Informed of Cassidy's answer, Roddick said, "The merchants are very pleased at his response."

Cassidy also insisted that the rumors flying around the neighborhood that he might rent to a large chain store like Blockbuster Video just weren't true. "We have ruled out national chains," he said. "Most large chains want major parking and we can't provide that."

What kind of stores is he looking for? "Something different," Cassidy said. "It would be nice to see a computer store or perhaps a video store in the space."

Cassidy said he planned to charge three to four dollars a square foot for the retail spaces, depending on the tenant improvements the businesses were willing to make. Meanwhile, he expects to rent the remaining residential apartments in the next 30 days, even though the building is not quite finished.

The apartments feature high ceilings, hardwood floors, designer tile bathrooms, private decks and patios, and a parking space in the building's garage. They range in price from \$1,850 a month for a 700-square-foot, one-bedroom live/work loft, to \$3,500 for a 1,300-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bath flat with city views.

On a recent weekend, passersby stopped to study a description of the apartments posted on the front door. Most expressed shock and dismay at the prices.

"This is outrageous," said one Noe Valley renter. He added that he paid \$1,325 a month for three bedrooms, one bath, and "a crazy landlord." But his own rent now looked like a bargain.

A woman who recently relocated to Noe Valley from Philadelphia was also surprised at the price. "This is really high. I'm still recovering from sticker shock for the \$1,800 a month three-bedroom apartment I just rented."

One of the building's new tenants, who was moving into a one-bedroom loft, later told the *Voice* that while the price for his new apartment was high, it was actually cheaper than some of the other spaces he'd looked at. "I had to leave the country seven months ago, and my landlord wouldn't let me sublet my apartment in lower Pacific Heights. When I got back, I had a week to find a place," he said. "Believe me, space is hard to find." □



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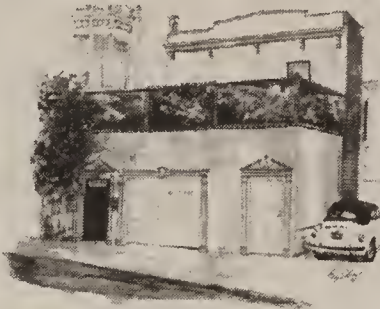
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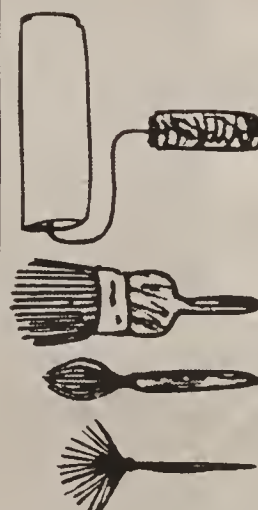
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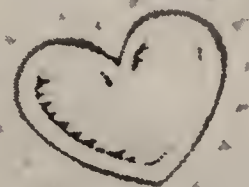
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# Residents Vow To Block All New Antennas

*Continued from Page 1*

One. "We decided that, based on what we'd been hearing from the neighbors, it was better to back out."

Irving paused only a few days to celebrate, then began planning how best to move the battle out into the rest of the neighborhood. "We're not just concerned about our little area," she said.

In late December she sent the Noe Valley Merchants Association a press kit with articles about the possible health effects of cellular telephone antenna emissions. She was scheduled to speak at the group's Jan. 28 meeting.

"I'm going to tell them we are intent on keeping these antennas out of the neighborhood and I'm going to ask for their support," said Irving.

She said she realized that most merchants didn't own the buildings in which their businesses were located, but that she was going to ask the merchants to contact her organization if they learned that someone had entered into negotiations with the cell phone companies.

The Ministry, meanwhile, is trying to regroup and find new ways to make up for the \$29,000 the church was to receive annually for renting out the steeple.

Interim Pastor Joan Huff said she was disappointed that Cellular One and Pac Bell had bowed out of the deal, particularly after the church weathered months of picketing and bad publicity.

But she said the Ministry still had a few options for taking care of its \$60,000 debt, as well as for paying for work on the building to make it earthquakeproof and wheelchair-accessible.

The first priority, however, would most likely be an \$80,000 electrical rewiring job, because the current wiring is too old to be safe. "The rewiring was to be an upfront gift from Pac Bell," said Huff. "Even though they're gone, it has to be done."

As for the debt, Huff said help might come from the national offices of the Presbytery. "They might refinance us out of the debt," she said.

In mid-January, a small group of Ministry members and other building users met to hear a proposal by Peter Gabel of Elizabeth Street to form a community board to help run the building as a nonprofit entity separate from the Ministry.

Many groups and individuals—such as a nursery school, a senior citizens center, two concert series, dance classes, and a variety of 12-step groups—use the building for nominal fees. Gabel has suggested that the building is a community resource for which the 40-member congregation should not have to bear full financial responsibility. Additionally, a nonprofit community center could apply for grants that might be off limits to churches.

"It could be a beautiful combination of community and church leadership to

share responsibility for running the building," said Gabel.

Gabel is president of San Francisco's New College and has considerable experience in forming and running a nonprofit agency.

But Gabel said he received a lukewarm response at the January meeting. "I arrived with a proposal which I thought I'd been asked to present," he said. "I felt a little puzzled by the fact that neither the minister nor any of the Session [the church's governing body] was there."

Tim Hart-Anderson, president of the board of trustees of the Presbytery, was at the meeting and told Gabel that the proposal was highly unusual.

"The only person at the meeting speaking with some authority for the church rejected the idea," said Gabel.

Gabel then suggested that the Ministry organize "block captains" to be in charge of fundraising for the church. That idea appeared to go over better with the group, he said.

Gabel brought to the meeting a \$1,000 donation from neighbors, and he said he intended to keep on working to keep the Ministry solvent. "The Ministry is a great community resource," said Gabel, whose son attends the Noe Valley Nursery School at the Ministry. "I just hope we can come up with some sort of collaborative relationship between it and the neighbors."

Huff said that the Session would con-

sider Gabel's proposal at its February meeting. But she believes that the congregation is leaning against giving up any control of the building.

"Turning over part of control of the church would be highly unusual, particularly since the church has adopted a mission statement saying that the congregation wants to grow significantly in the next five years."

As yet, they have no specific ideas about how to expand. But the Session's first order of business will be to choose a new pastor, said Huff, and when that person takes the Ministry reins, she or he will begin an outreach campaign.

"We are realizing that the surest form of funding is that which comes from our own membership," said Huff. "The congregation raised its own church offering over 25 percent from 1997 to 1998."

As for the cellular phone companies, both claim they have nothing in the works regarding new antenna locations in our neighborhood.

"At the present time, we're not exploring any sites in Noe Valley," said Lynn Bunim of Pacific Bell's External Affairs Department. "And every day I hear from people who are frustrated. Last night a customer called and said she couldn't use her cell phone right outside her home," Bunim added.

Hatch said Cellular One had no new leads either. "We're back to square one."



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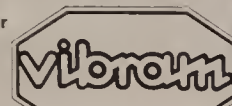
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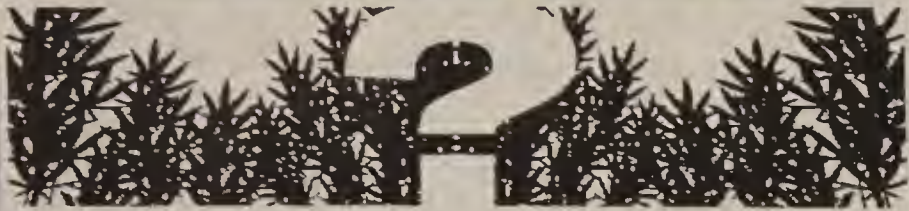
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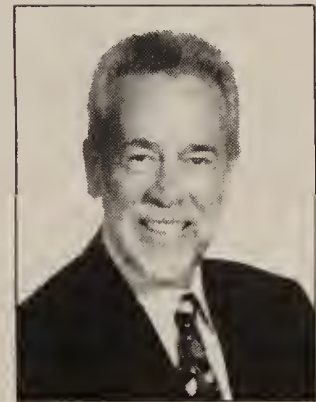
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# POLICE BEAT

## Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

By Officer Lois Perillo

In response to your questions about the state's Smoke-Free Workplace Law, which was extended to bars on Jan. 1, here are some answers culled from the California Labor Code, No. 6405.5.

First of all, the exact wording of the statute is: "No employee shall knowingly or intentionally permit, and no person shall engage in, the smoking of tobacco products in an enclosed space at a place of employment."

But be aware of these facts:

- Private clubs are not exempt.
- The small business exemption does not permit smoking in bars and taverns.
- The physical size of the workplace is irrelevant.
- Using volunteers as servers will not exempt a workplace from compliance.
- The number of workplace employees present or not present is irrelevant. As long as an owner employs one employee, whether or not the employee is present, the owner must maintain a smoke-free environment.

At present, owner installation of an interior ventilation system will not permit smoking inside the workplace.

The business owner/manager is responsible for removing all ashtrays, posting signs at all entrances informing customers that smoking is forbidden, and advising anyone smoking within the workplace that state law provides for a smoke-free environment.

The first violation may result in a fine not exceeding \$100, the second climbs to \$200, and any subsequent violation within one year may go up to \$500. The city's police and health departments are currently charged with enforcement, but only on a complaint basis. All reports will be forwarded to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Bureau. Our local tobacco control project director is Alyonik Hrushow of the Department of Health, 1540 Market St., Room 250, San Francisco, CA 94102. His number is 554-9151.

According to sources in the SFPD legal office, the state has funded an investigative arm that will provide undercover agents to look into reports of violations.

### More Legal Stuff

Here are some changes in other laws, effective this year:

A mother may now breastfeed her child in any location, public or private (except the private home or residence of another) where the mother and child are authorized to be present.

A peace officer may remove a vehicle, upon complaint, if an alarm device or horn has been activated, whether continuously or intermittently, and the officer is unable to locate the owner and silence the alarm within 20 minutes.

So-called "identity theft"—the use of the name, address, telephone number, driver's license number, social security number, place of employment, mother's maiden name, or credit card number without authorization—is now a crime.

Police can now give domestic violence restraining orders priority over other types of court orders, such as those giving a parent his or her child visitation rights. In addition, police officers are now allowed to obtain restraining orders in stalking cases.

The state has increased the penalties for victim/witness intimidation.

My thanks to Officer Michael Paganini, who compiled the above information with the help of West's California Legislative Service.

### Witnesses Come to the Rescue

The months of November and December each saw three reported robberies within my Noe Valley area.

On Nov. 13, an older woman living on the 1000 block of Sanchez Street was robbed and assaulted by a 30-year-old man who had gained entry to her home by claiming to be a massage therapist. The assault was classified as sexual because the suspect, under the guise of doing massage, touched the woman. He also took a small amount of money before leaving. The man was identified as a former driver for an elder care home. He was also on parole. The good news was: on Nov. 20 he was arrested and returned to state prison.

Another ray of sunlight in November was that many people in the community came to the aid of a 60-year-old woman whose purse was stolen on the 700 block of Douglass Street.

The purse snatch occurred on Nov. 17 at about 1:30 in the afternoon, and was witnessed by a man driving his car on Douglass Street. A letter carrier, delivering mail nearby, also heard the woman's screams and yelled at the fleeing suspect to drop the purse. The suspect complied, and the mail carrier retrieved and returned the purse to the woman.

With the witness driver in pursuit, the suspect then took off on foot north on Douglass, west on 23rd, back down to Douglass, and finally south to Elizabeth Street, where, according to another witness, he ran toward an accomplice car—a blue Toyota 3MAR550—facing west on Elizabeth. The suspect sat on the car's hood, apparently to cover the front license plate, as the vehicle backed eastward down Elizabeth. When the getaway car reached Diamond Street, the suspect jumped inside it through a window, and the accomplices sped away north on Diamond to 21st Street, eventually losing their pursuers.

Meanwhile, the mail carrier had noted the car's license plate prior to the purse snatch, and relayed this information to police. The targeted woman left the scene before the police arrived, however, and her identity remained unknown last month. Anyone with information should contact the Robbery Detail at 553-1201.

In another incident, on Nov. 19 at about 11 p.m., a 23-year-old man was robbed of his hat and jacket while at the corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets. His assailant brandished a switchblade, then fled in a red Toyota Celica 145WRC. (A person who was driving by at the time saw the robbery and jotted down the license number.) The responding officers, Martha Juarez and Elena Teper, have identified the Toyota's driver through DMV and police criminal records and have put together a photo lineup. Unfortunately, they have been unable to contact the targeted man to ask him to view the photos.

### 2 Muggings and a 'Till Tap'

An intoxicated man reported that he was robbed while walking at Noe and 24th streets on Dec. 7 at 3:25 a.m., by a 25-year-old man who approached him from behind and stuck a hard object into the small of his back. After demanding and getting money, the suspect fled west on 24th Street.

A nail salon on Vicksburg Street was the site of a "till tap" (the sneaky theft of money from an opened cash register) that became a robbery/assault after the worker confronted the suspect and the suspect assaulted the worker before fleeing with the money. The incident happened Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m., and the worker recognized the

suspect as a former customer.

A week later, an 88-year-old woman came to Mission Station to report that she was mugged while standing on the corner of 22nd and Dolores on Dec. 15 at around 4 p.m. Her attacker was a "tall, thin man" who struck her and threw her to the ground, causing bruising to her shoulder. He then fled with her money and jewelry.

In mid-January, there were still no arrests in these three cases.

### D.A. Dismisses 3 Out of 4

The 35-year-old man arrested for burglarizing a home on the 700 block of Sanchez Street on Aug. 9, 1997, pled guilty and was sentenced on Dec. 10 to two years in state prison.

The case against a 51-year-old man arrested last October on charges of cruelty

Continued on Next Page



Officer Lois Perillo

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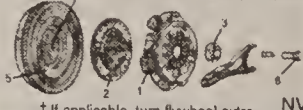
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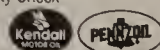
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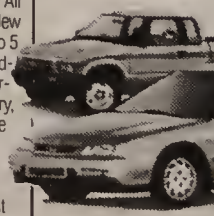
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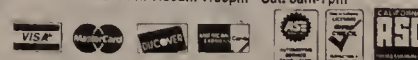
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## POLICE BEAT

*Continued from Previous Page*

to a dependent adult has been dismissed. The district attorney's office stated it was "unable to sustain the burden of proof."

Another case—this one against a 35-year-old man booked last August on charges of cohabitee abuse and vandalism to phone lines—was dismissed for the same reason.

A man I arrested for shoplifting from the Just for Fun gift store on Dec. 3 was not rebooked. The case was dismissed "in the interest of justice."

### Was Holiday Shopping Safer?

Did you see a few more police officers walking the beat along 24th Street during the holiday season? They were part of Police Chief Lau's and Commander Santos' Safe Shopper Program, which officers were able to sign up for on a four-hour overtime basis. My statistics showed a decrease in reported thefts during that pe-

riod. Let my bosses at the SFPD know your thoughts about the program.

*News Flash:* In late January, a Voice staffer who lives near 30th Street reported that he was the victim of a scam. A door-to-door solicitor, who claimed to be a neighbor, asked for a donation to support a girls soccer team. The con artist then ran off with the resident's 20-dollar bill after pretending to fish for change.

The lesson is clear: Be sure you know who you're donating to, before you give.

As always, kudos to all of you who helped each other through difficult and dangerous incidents. Until next time, be safe and I'll see you on patrol. □



*San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat by foot and by bicycle. Her turf extends from 21st Street south to Cesar Chavez, and from Valencia west to Grand View. If you would like to report a problem, call 558-5404. (For emergencies, dial 911.) To file a police report, stop by Mission Police Station at 630 Valencia St. near 17th.*

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# Noe Valley Pizza Changes Hands

*Continued from Page 1*

years ago in Cole Valley. They started Bambino's, they said, in anticipation that the Vozaites would eventually reclaim the Noe Valley Pizza space. "I had a feeling this was coming," Dino said.

Even so, the Farmases had hoped to stay in Noe Valley by moving the restaurant to a building they own on Church and 24th streets. They say they were stopped because of a moratorium designed to keep in check the number of restaurants in Noe Valley. "We tried to stay around," Maria said with a smile and a shrug. "It didn't work out. What can you do?"

Since Bambino's opened, Dino has spent most of his time in the new restaurant. He sat in a booth one overcast Monday, speaking wistfully about his and Maria's pending departure from Noe Valley. "I'm leaving part of my life there. It was my first restaurant and it was very successful," he said. "And our customers are beautiful people. I'm going to miss them."

While the Cole Street place has a more contemporary decor than its Noe Valley counterpart, the two restaurants share similar menus featuring such old standbys as linguini with clams, eggplant parmigiana, and spaghetti and meatballs. They also make some concessions to contemporary tastes, with dishes like grilled salmon, angel-hair pasta with chicken, and fettucine with roasted bell peppers. Of course, there's the pizza. And home delivery has always been a big part of Maria and Dino's business.

A few days later, on a soggy Friday

night, the phone at Noe Valley Pizza was ringing steadily with pizza orders. The rain had kept some regulars at home, but most of the tables were filled as Maria greeted customers by name while keeping benign control over the busy wait staff, cooks, and pizza delivery crew. It was a typical night, but an air of resignation mingled with the aromas emanating from the kitchen.

"We're sad they're leaving," said customer Debi Anaya, who was sitting in one of the worn red leather booths with her husband, Jim, and the youngest of their three children. "She's a good reason why we come here," Jim said of Maria, who had been merrily chatting with the Anayas moments before.

The Anayas have been regulars ever since they moved to the neighborhood 11 years ago, and each of their children — ages 8, 6, and 4 — has been introduced to dining out at Noe Valley Pizza. "It's an easy place to come to with the kids," Debi said. "It's good for 24th Street because it's such a family area."

Bob and Kathleen Hohalek are 12-year veterans of the restaurant, and Friday is their regular night. They were having a pre-dinner glass of wine at the small bar being tended by their daughter Xanthe. "When we first started coming, they'd give her things to color," Kathleen said to emphasize their long run at the restaurant. "The food is predictable, but what separated this place from the others is customer service. This one won out because of the family feel."

Another disappointed patron is Bernie Ward, the KGO radio talk show host, who has used his program to lament the change. Ward first became a fan of the restaurant when he held an on-air contest to pick the best pizza in the city. Dino and Maria's took first place. "Now when my kids talk about pizza," Ward said, "they

want Noe Valley Pizza."

Ward has been a Noe Valley resident for six years. "It's just not good for the area for them to be leaving," he said. "Here is an example where a good idea [the moratorium on restaurants] hurts the neighborhood."

Even with the moratorium, the Farmases thought the rule would still let them open a restaurant in their Church Street building if their landlord promised the city that another restaurant wouldn't replace Noe Valley Pizza. But Tony Vozaite, the landlord, said that guarantee had not been a possibility.

"The history is that there has been a restaurant here for 30 years," said Vozaite, who owns the two adjoining buildings as well. Besides, he said, the reason he wanted the space was to help fulfill his son's wishes to get back into the restaurant business.

Vozaite bought the building in 1965, and moved his family into the upstairs apartment when his son, Dennis, was 2. The downstairs business was a baby furniture store, he said, but was soon replaced by Linder's Restaurant.

"When they closed after seven years, I was going to open up a restaurant," Vozaite said, "but the kids were small." He eventually did open the Geneva Pizza Restaurant on Geneva Avenue near Mission Street, where Dennis got his first taste of the restaurant business. "But I didn't like the area," Dennis said.

More recently, Dennis has worked as a manager of a produce market in the Sunset. "I needed a change," he said. "To tell you the truth, I got tired of getting up at the crack of dawn. I wasn't a morning person."

In recent weeks, Dennis, who lives with his wife and their children near his parents in Millbrae, has been spending his days at Noe Valley Pizza, observing and learning the routines. "There are no bad

vibes," he said. "Everything is great. I've known Dino for years."

In fact, there is a family connection: Dennis' wife is Dino's first cousin's daughter. Both families are Greek, and both are veterans of the Italian restaurant business. With the closing last year of Panos, the Greek-flavored restaurant on 24th Street, Dennis said he might try out a few Greek dishes on the menu.

For Dino, who was reared in Argos, Greece, it was never an option. "If you tell me to cook something Greek," he said, "I wouldn't know how."

When Dino and Maria moved to the United States in 1972, they were trading poverty for uncertainty. "I never dreamed in my life that I was going to be in the restaurant business," he said. But he got a start as a dishwasher, and learned about restaurants from Italian owners. Before he opened Noe Valley Pizza, he had worked across the street at Haystack Pizza Restaurant.

Dino and Maria now live in Hillsborough with their three daughters. "I don't think they like the restaurant business," he said of his offspring.

Since it doesn't look as if Dino and Maria will be passing on the family business, they will reevaluate their future as restaurateurs once college tuitions are out of the way, Dino said. "The restaurant business is very tough, and I wish good luck to anybody who wants to get into it."

Meanwhile, his Cole Valley restaurant seems to be doing well, and he hopes some of his Noe Valley regulars will come over the hill for a visit. But he knows it won't be the same. It won't be in Noe Valley.

"I like that neighborhood best," Dino acknowledged. "It might be cloudy when I leave home, but then you get to Noe Valley and all that sunshine. It changes your mood." □

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# Gym Keeps Up the Good Workout

By Richard Dodds

If places like Gold's Gym, 24-Hour Fitness, and Muscle Systems are the supermarkets of health clubs, Purely Physical Fitness is the corner grocery.

Located on Castro Street near Jersey, this small, friendly, and unpretentious health club fits comfortably into casual Noe Valley, where sipping java can be as important as pumping iron.

"We don't have a bunch of hard bodies," said Lori Leff, who operates the business with husband Joel Leff. "Actually, we do get those who work out here to get into shape so they can go to other gyms to be seen. But you don't have to already look good to go to the gym here!"

Purely Physical recently celebrated its fifth anniversary without much fanfare, and the Leffs have been negotiating with the building's owner for a new five-year lease. Since opening, the gym has expanded throughout the arched-roof building at 1414 Castro St., formerly occupied by an air conditioning and heating company and a mortgage firm.

The Leffs also operate a second location, dubbed "the studio," at the corner of Castro and 25th, for aerobic and conditioning classes. However, they plan to close this space in the coming months, moving the studio's more popular exercise classes to the main location.

"It doesn't seem to be working out the way we thought it would," Lori said of the studio. "Aerobics are dying on the vine," and the dwindling size of these classes, she noted, may not justify the cost of a second space.

But it was in an apartment above the studio space that the original Purely Physical Fitness was born six years ago. Back then, the ground floor was occupied by a thriving exercise center, the independently owned 25th Street Workout.

Randal Bitterman, Lori's brother, decided to open a small personal training gym above 25th Street Workout, in case people wanted to add strengthening exercises to their aerobics. He soon realized, however, that Noe Valley could use a full-scale gym. Bitterman moved Purely Physical to 1414 Castro in November of 1992.

"He said, 'I really want that space,' and the next thing we knew, he had it," Lori said. "It was his dream."

Lori joined her brother's business as manager in March of 1993. After she and Joel were married the following fall, Joel also joined the operation. Bitterman, who had contracted AIDS, needed the help. As the disease took its toll, Lori and Joel gradually took over most of the day-to-day operations. "When it looked like he wasn't getting better," Lori said, "it seemed like the right thing to do."

By the time Bitterman died in February of 1995 at age 33, the Leffs had decided they would keep the gym open—and Bitterman's dream alive. Three months later, Lori gave birth to their daughter, and now Lori and Joel run the business around daycare schedules, as well as Joel's studies in exercise physiology at City College of San Francisco.

The chock-full days don't seem to faze them, though. Maybe that's because their clientele is so easygoing.

The folks who work out at Purely Physical Fitness are mostly, well, just folks. The age demographics skew a little older than at many gyms, but beyond that, membership is pleasantly diverse. "We have a very comfortable mix," said Joel, "male and female, gay and straight," with about a 50-50 male/female ratio.

A few regulars come from as far as Pacific Heights to take a favorite class, but most members hail from Noe Valley. Not surprisingly, location is the main draw.

"The idea of driving to a gym seems ridiculous to me," said John Hlinko, a writer who lives on 24th Street. "Essentially your workout is a half-hour longer if you have to get in your car and go someplace else."

Linda Stewart lives in Glen Park, so she drives. "But I still consider it the neighborhood, and I like to give them my business because of that," she said. Stewart also appreciates the atmosphere. "They always have nice flowers at the desk, and they change the artwork," she said of the exhibits featuring local artists and photographers. "It's not glitzy here, but I prefer this style."

Fred Zimmerman, an economics professor who lives at Guerrero and 24th, likes the ambiance, too. "It's a very laid-back gym," he said. "A number of the fancy gyms are actually cheaper, but this place has its own character."

Laid-back, maybe, but not funky. "The gym prides itself on cleanliness," said Ben Brandin, who mans the front desk. "You get on some machines in other gyms and they feel greasy. They're not wiped down. Here they get cleaned three times a day." Brandin, who was reading *Brave New World* when not checking in members, called the gym "a real homey situation."

The Leffs live in the neighborhood, too—up the hill from the gym, on Grand View Avenue. But their apartment building is for sale, and if they have to move, they worry that high rents may push them out of Noe Valley. Sometimes they fantasize about relocating the gym to larger quarters in Noe Valley, but, noted Lori, "there really isn't any space available that's larger than what we have."

At 5,000 square feet, the gym is relatively small, with a basic mix of free weights, Cybex machines, treadmills, step machines, and cycles. There are plans to add a few more pieces of equipment, but the space is about maxed out.

Membership in Purely Physical costs \$550 a year. There are also six-month, one-month, weekly, and day-use rates, but no special introductory offers, no initiation fees, and no minimum membership. The Leffs believe in keeping things straightforward.

"Granted, our prices can be higher," Lori said, "but you have to look at the professionalism and education of our staff."

All instructors and trainers must be certified to work at the gym, Joel points out. Clients sign up for classes ranging from "power yoga and stretch" to "sculpt and burn." Personal trainers are also available by appointment.

Purely Physical must be doing something right, because gym membership is now approaching 600. "At 650," Joel said, "it will be as full as we can allow it. We do have a very high retention rate, about 75 to 85 percent."

The biggest crowds typically work out before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. But during the day, he noted, sparse attendance makes for the feeling of a private gym.

"We're not getting rich, but it's good work," Joel said. "I mean, we get to wear sweats to work, and to socialize with 600 friendly people!" □

## PHYSICAL FITNESS



Jeff and Lori Leff say they like to hang loose with customers and staff—including Ben Brandin (in background)—at their homey fitness center on Castro Street. Photo by Beverly Thorp

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# How I Put the Brakes on My Uncurbed Wheels

By Erin O'Briant

When I first started driving in San Francisco, I never curbed my wheels. Natives of the city warned me that I'd get a parking ticket, but I'd never heard of curbing your wheels and I didn't feel like doing it. Besides, the car was in park and the emergency brake was on, so what could go wrong?

Of course, eventually I had to break down and get a California driver's license (my original license was from Georgia, a state where you could get a license just by holding the wheel and stepping on the gas at the same time). When I went to the DMV, I was surprised to see a whole section of the *California Driver Handbook* devoted to parking on a hill. And sure enough, it said I had to curb my wheels.

So I started curbing them. And when I heard about the terrible thing that happened to a pedestrian on the Sanchez Street Hill a couple of months ago, I was really glad I did.

On the morning of Nov. 3, a man walk-



The correct way to curb your wheels when parking downhill is to turn your front wheels into the curb. Photo by Charles Kennard



This hill parking job doesn't quite do it. To avoid a ticket, cars must make sure the front tire is touching the curb. Photo by Charles Kennard

ing down the sidewalk on Sanchez near 21st Street was struck by a runaway van. According to the Channel 2 news and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, prior to the accident the van was parked on Sanchez Street but was resting against a car parked in front of it.

When the driver of the car pulled out of her space, the van broke free, rolled onto the sidewalk, and hit the pedestrian. The victim, a 53-year-old man who lived in the Upper Market area, underwent surgery at San Francisco General Hospital that night. But he later died from his injuries.

To get to my point: There's a good chance the van took off because it didn't have its wheels curbed properly. And if the van had been parked correctly, that man who was walking along Sanchez at just the wrong moment might still be alive.

Community Police Officer Lois Perillo checked the books for me and says it is illegal to park on a grade of more than 3% without setting the brake and blocking the wheels by turning them against the curb. Most San Francisco drivers don't know the exact law, though, because the *California Driver Handbook* fails to specify

that cars parked downhill must have the front tire touching the curb. (It also does not mention the 3% grade.) However, the manual gives the following tips:

First, to park your vehicle properly on an incline, be sure to park in gear. For automatics, use the "park" position. Every parked vehicle should have the emergency brake set, the guide says.

**When you park headed uphill**, turn your front wheels away from the curb and let your vehicle roll back a bit until the rear of one front tire touches the curb.

**For downhill parking**, turn your front wheels into the curb and roll forward until one front tire touches the curb.

Officer Perillo points out that when the wheels actually touch the curb, the car has less chance to build up the momentum that could cause it to roll out of control.

"In curbing your wheels, what you're really doing is showing concern for the safety of your neighbors," Perillo says. From her experience, most people in Noe Valley routinely curb their wheels.

Considering the amount of damage a runaway vehicle can do, Perillo thinks the parking ticket for uncurbed wheels, \$23,

is surprisingly low. Now I guess I do too.

Until I started investigating this story, I didn't know my wheels were supposed to actually touch the curb, and I certainly didn't know about parking on a 3% grade. I also had no idea how much my curbside manners could affect others.

From now on — remembering that a man in our neighborhood lost his life, possibly due to someone's carelessness — I'm not getting out of my car until my wheels are properly curbed. □



Illustration by Florence Holub

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to the depth and breadth and height My soul  
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# Funny Couple On Fair Oaks

By Karen Topkian

While traveling through Canada doing stand-up gigs in June of 1996, comedian Paul Jacobs arranged to have dinner with his friend Fran in Vancouver. Fran brought along a friend of hers, Loree Rose, a former stand-up comedian.

Rose and Jacobs really hit it off. They went out to dinner again—just the two of them—and again... and again. Jacobs extended his stay in Vancouver by nine days, but then he had to get back to the States. Once he'd returned to his Fair Oaks Street home in Noe Valley, however, he couldn't resist calling Rose to say he'd like to see her again.

"As my daughter put it," says Jacobs, referring to his grown daughter Rochelle, who also lives in Noe Valley, "Let me get this straight, Dad, your second date was nine days long?"

Jacobs began crossing the border every couple of weeks to see Rose. Then Rose came to San Francisco for a short visit in August. And in December "she moved down here for three months—to clean my apartment," quips Jacobs.

Rose remembers being impressed by Jacobs even before she met him. "Fran said, 'Paul said he'd call at seven,' and I'm, like, 'Yeah right, seven on the wrong day!' That was usually my experience when a guy said he would call at seven—it would be the wrong year or the wrong week or something. But Paul actually called at seven! I was really impressed. And there were a few things he said that kind of made me curious..."

"Like 'Will you marry me?'" interrupts Jacobs.

"Also," says Rose, not missing a beat, "he kept his mouth shut. I mean, he just said important things.... You know, he didn't ramble on about salmon or something dumb. Whatever he said touched me somewhere and was meaningful to me. And I was surprised because he was a guy. It's true. That wasn't my experience!"

Rose pauses, then adds, "One of the things he said to me was, 'Do you always laugh this much?' My heart went, Ohhh, that's so sweet. Yes, and don't bug me about it."

Jacobs didn't bug her. Instead he proposed marriage, she said yes, and they tied the knot on May 1 of last year.

Jacobs, who won the title of "Second-Funniest Person in New Jersey" in 1992, has performed everywhere from a converted luggage store on Market Street to the Punchline Comedy Club. He wasted no time incorporating the details of his new relationship into his act.

"I got married," he says, "because I needed new material."

"Each year before we make love, we sing both national anthems," he revealed to a Vancouver audience last fall. "There's always that independence versus togetherness issue because we're used to living alone. Last year we took a vacation in Hawaii, and we got separate rooms. Hers was on Maui. We want to build on that experience."

Rose, who was in the audience, says she cried like a baby, though on the audiotape of the performance you can hear her distinctive laugh.

Why the tears? "A lot of my friends were there, and I wasn't used to love being public—it was always sort of a secret thing," she says. "And all of a sudden there was this man standing up there being really funny about our love. I was just so overwhelmed and touched that he would write it and do it in front of people."

Rose retired from stand-up comedy in 1996, just before she met Jacobs. But she



"Take my wife, please." On second thought, don't. Comedians Paul Jacobs and Loree Rose got married last May and they haven't stop laughing since.

Photo by Najib Joe Hokim

relishes a few fond memories. During one performance at a recovery house for drug addicts, she did a routine that was sandwiched between a talk by a *Vancouver Sun* columnist and a presentation by the local coroner. "I opened for the coroner," she says with a grin. "That was my favorite part."

Despite the fun she had at this event, Rose says, only one person approached her afterward, and that was only to say, "My mum thought you were funny."

"I stopped after that," says Rose. "It was kind of over—like bad sex."

It was great getting all that attention up on a stage, Rose recalls, and she loved making people laugh, but writing and performing comedy was no easy task.

"I had a lot of trouble not being able to stand up and tell the truth," she says. "You have to really exaggerate on stage, and that's hard. Even though I do exaggerate in my real life, [on stage] you have to almost make up stuff, and you have to pretend it's really you."

At one point, Rose attempted to do a comedy spot about her former in-laws, each of whom weighed "around 500 pounds. It was actually a test for me to see whether I could stand up and talk about people who were *that* big—and still get laughs. But because I wasn't big myself, it didn't work."

She takes a moment to reminisce about those Fellini-esque Sunday dinners with her ex-husband's family, where marshmallows floated in huge mounds of jello and the meals started with someone yelling "Go!": "They'd stand up and grab food onto their plates and just stuff it into their mouths, and then they'd sit back and say, 'Uhh, that only took 10 minutes. We're full. Let's go into the living room.'"

"Aunt Minnie, she had a big bra, a DD cup," Rose continues. "She would hang it out on the line, and little birds would go in there and make their nests...."

These days, Rose spreads her humor amongst coworkers and customers at Flax, the art supply store where she holds a regular day job. Before this, she did social service work as an advocate for the poor and disabled. The job sometimes re-

quired working with criminals, which Rose was glad to do. "If you're in jail, not a lot is funny," she observes. "And that's one of my things—making people who maybe don't laugh, laugh."

She used to joke around with the prisoners, making comments such as, "It's good to have a captive audience." And she admits she usually felt more comfortable walking into a maximum security prison "than walking into a comedy club where people *expected* to laugh."

"I thought you weren't going to say how we really met!" interjects Jacobs, who is currently channeling most of his humor into a screenplay. "It's a dark, biting, black comedy," he says, "dealing with corruption in a nonprofit."

When not writing the screenplay, Jacobs sometimes thinks about leaving the world of stand-up in favor of entertaining accountants or lawyers when they need someone to lighten up their dreary business functions. This would mesh well with the work he does as an educational testing consultant.

"I'm often used as a consultant, supposedly because I have expertise in educational testing," he says. "But the reality is, I'm a facilitator who makes people laugh. People with different theoretical or philosophical points of view may hate each other, and I make them laugh. They seem happy, and they think I know something. And if I do it on the East Coast, I've come from 3,000 miles away, so I'm a *valuable* consultant."

Looking back over all his years as a comedian, Jacobs notes how he once used comedy to distance himself from other people. "I wanted to be that funny person at the party, the one everybody paid attention to. But when I got there, it was empty. It was an avoidance of intimacy." When he finally realized this, "it was a revelation to me."

"I was the same way at parties," chimes in Rose, "but now I just go to sleep at nine. By the time the party starts I'm in bed. It's not a problem."

"If you're hosting the party it is," her husband teases.

Some people might be daunted by the challenge of starting a new relationship, as Jacobs and Rose did, at the relatively late ages of 61 and 49—especially if one partner had to emigrate from another country. But for these two, a shared sense of humor keeps molehills from turning into mountains.

And fortunately, Rose loves her new American home in Noe Valley. She particularly likes passing by Gladrags clothing store when strolling along 24th Street. "I don't even have to go in," she says. "I just like walking by and having that smell of the candles or whatever it is they have in there. Oh God I love that."


The couple also enjoy the simple pleasure of seeing the same people every day in front of Martha's Coffee. "There's this bench of regular faces that you see even if you don't know who they are," says Rose. "You say oh yeah, like, everything is in its place." □

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# Neighbors Build Shrine to Amelia the Cat

By Loren J. Bialik

Halloween 1997 was a sad night for the residents of one close-knit block in Noe Valley. Amelia, a beloved neighborhood cat, died after she was hit by a car.

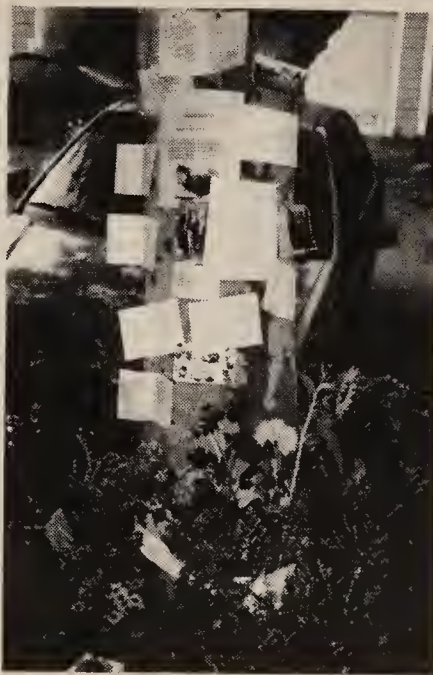
The accident took place near her home, on Cesar Chavez Street where it dead-ends east of Castro. "I saw the whole thing happen," said Lois Hirsch, Amelia's owner. "I saw her fly up in the air. I knew that was it."

The following day Hirsch, who has lived on Cesar Chavez since 1968, found a lovely, purple-and-blue flower at the base of a tree in front of her home. Over the next few weeks, the flower bloomed into a shrine to Amelia, as neighbors left love letters, notes of condolence, pictures and drawings, wood tulips, and a twirling pinwheel at the tree. "I will always remember you as a gentle, soft, loving soul, a friend in times of crisis as well as ordinary times," wrote David Mehren, one of the many neighbors saddened by the loss.

Amelia was no typical cat. For starters, she was 17 years old—119 in human years.

She was born on June 27, 1980, to Lucy, who lived with Hirsch's backyard neighbor. "I was never introduced to the father," admitted Hirsch. But Amelia was the only calico and obviously the wildest in the litter. "She flew through the house so fast," said Hirsch, "I decided to name her Amelia, after Amelia Earhart."

She was a friendly feline—a flirt, in fact—sidling up to anyone who would pet her. "And she slept around," said Mehren. "She slept with me plenty of times, but always returned to Lois."



Residents of Cesar Chavez left a memorial scratching post for a beloved neighborhood cat who was hit by a car on Halloween.

Often neighbors found her sitting on the front steps of Hirsch's house, meowing to passersby. Mehren even remembers her sitting out in a rainstorm waiting to greet people after work.

The day she was hit, she was standing chatting with other neighbors in the middle of the street. Perhaps the elderly man who drove the car expected her to move. Maybe he never saw her.

Indeed, Amelia's tragic flaw may have been her preference for humans. "Amelia was congenial to two-legged animals, but she avoided those on four," said Hirsch.

Still, even her archenemy, Muffy Barr, another area cat, left a note at her shrine: "While we did not always get along. I miss you now! Your friend from afar, Muffy Barr."

According to Hirsch, Amelia was glad to perform the usual cat tricks. She made



Companion Lois Hirsch taught Amelia how to walk at an early age.

a lump under the living-room rug. And she walked backwards if you held up her front paws.

But she seemed to have higher aspirations, too. During one Passover Seder at a neighbor's house, the participants opened the door for Elijah, the biblical prophet who is supposed to herald the coming of the Messiah. At that exact moment, substituting for Elijah, Amelia trotted into the home.

Despite her lofty goals, "she gave her love unconditionally," said Hirsch.

"She was truly a neighborhood cat," agreed Mehren. "Some apartment dwellers, who couldn't have pets, adopted her as their own. She pulled neighbors together. She was everyone's friend in common."

Nancy Hornor, a neighbor who called Amelia a friend for 16 years, also contributed to the memorial. "Everyone knew her because she was so loving. We put up the shrine because it was such a tragic death. We couldn't let it go by without some ceremony."

Nevertheless, Hirsch, who teaches disabled children at a school in the East Bay, was astonished by all the love and support she received after Amelia's death. Two neighbors, Gary Abel and Mike Reilly, helped her bury the kitty in her back yard under a lilac tree.

"I needed their help. I was devastated," said Hirsch. "Amelia was a loving companion for 17 years."

Two months later, Hirsch still mourned her best friend. And she was not sure another cat could ever take Amelia's place.

In a note to her neighbors, Hirsch wrote, "This outpouring of love and affection for a cat, even a cat as loving and special as Amelia, has completely overwhelmed me. It is said that living in a city breeds coldness and isolation. But this cannot be so. Look at this—a shrine to a cat! You have all reinforced my faith in humanity and in the goodness of humankind." □

*Readers should note that the San Francisco SPCA offers a free Pet Loss Support Group for grieving pet owners. It meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at 2500 16th St. Call 554-3050 for more information.*



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# SHORT TAKES

## Fire Fund for Local Residents

Four families lost their homes when a house at the corner of San Jose Avenue and Elizabeth Street burned down Jan. 19. Though no one was seriously injured, the former residents are in need of help to replace items lost in the fire.

Nearby Jamestown Community Center has organized a "Fire Fund" to collect donations. The families are in immediate need of casual clothing such as tee shirts, sweatshirts, and jeans (waist sizes 32 to 36). They also need personal items such as combs and brushes, slippers, shampoo, and soap, and staples such as cereal, rice, beef, chicken, produce, and milk.

These families are also searching for new homes, preferably two- to three-bedroom apartments in Noe Valley or the Mission District. By the end of February they will need home furnishings including beds, linens, and kitchen supplies.

If you would like to help, please send or bring donations to the Jamestown Community Center, 3531 22nd St., San Francisco, CA 94114. For more information, call Jamestown's office at 647-4709.

## Bethany Defends 'Holy Unions'

A "holy union ceremony of love and re-commitment" will take place on Valentine's Day weekend at Bethany United Methodist Church (UMC) in Noe Valley.

Bethany Church — along with other United Methodist churches around the country — is sponsoring the service in protest of the UMC's recent ban on commitment ceremonies other than marriage.

"We've been having holy unions in our church for decades," says Rev. Karen Oliveto. "Our community expects to have their relationships affirmed, and we can't withhold that blessing from loving couples."

All couples — straight and gay — who would like to reaffirm their commitment are invited to attend. The service will include music, words of affirmation from the audience, and the opportunity for couples to say vows. A reception with cake and punch will follow the ceremony.

The service will take place on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 11 a.m. at the church, located at 1268 Sanchez St. (near Clipper). For more information, call 647-8393.

## 17 Reasons for Arts and Crafts

If you'd like to do something creative to chase away the winter blues, you might want to check out the Saturday art classes that Sarah Compton, artist-owner of 17 Reasons, is holding at her shop, 3961 24th St. Each class runs from 10 a.m. to noon, and costs \$25 including most materials.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, she'll teach a Valentine and birthday card workshop in which participants can use paper, ribbons, and other crafts to make "romantic, magical, or silly cards," in collage, woven, or pop-up styles. Compton says class members are welcome to bring special poems or photos to put in their cards. The following Saturday, Feb. 15, she'll lead a workshop on "Metal Nic Naks," showing how to use wire, charms, and beads to create paperclip jewelry and bookmarks. Saturday, Feb. 22, will be devoted to making paper dolls — and the doll clothes for them — using cardboard, fabric, and "the amazing laminating machine."

Compton, who has 15 years of teaching experience, says the two classes she taught last fall were a big success. "People really loved the fact that they could come here, where the materials were gathered together for them, and go home with a finished product."

Classes are limited to six people to ensure an intimate setting. To reserve a space, call the shop at 206-1717.

## Ingleside Police Lend an Ear

Many locals don't know that part of Noe Valley is under the wing of the Ingleside Police Station. So they may also be unaware that the officers at that station — which serves Noe Valley south of Cesar Chavez Street — hold monthly meetings where residents can air their concerns.

According to Sgt. Stephan Thorne, the meetings were started four years ago "in an effort to reach out, and to get input from the community on a regular basis. People come in with complaints and observations. And if we can, we act on them."

The officers also use the meetings to spread the word about crime trends. Recent topics included "Muni speeding on Chenery" and a charge that several stores were selling alcohol to juveniles.

The station captain usually attends the meetings or sends a lieutenant in his stead.

The meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8 p.m. at Ingleside Police Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane, off San Jose Avenue in Balboa Park. The next meeting will be held Feb. 17. The station number is 553-1603.

## Friends Offer 1998 Grants

Know of a project that would benefit Noe Valley, if only the funds were available? The residents group Friends of Noe Valley has earmarked \$1,000 to improve our neighborhood.

The Friends began the program last year, when they allocated \$350 to fix up the garden at the Sally Brunn-Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. Another \$250 went to the Jamestown Youth-in-Charge program for leadership training. Friends of the Urban Forest received \$100 to plant trees in Douglass Park.

This year the money may be divided among several programs, or the Friends may give one group the whole \$1,000.

Proposals should come from nonprofit groups interested in tackling a specific project in Noe Valley. Applicants should be willing to complete the project in a reasonable time frame and stay within the amount awarded. The deadline for applications is March 31. To apply, call Cecile Lozano at 584-8442.

## It's Time to Play Ball

Baseball season is coming up! The San Francisco Youth Baseball League will start its spring season the first week of April. Teams are forming now, and practice will get under way during the next couple of months. The league is looking for players ages 5 to 14 (who will be divided into six age divisions). The club also needs umpires 15 and up, and coaches 18 years or older who can pass a background check. Umpires will be paid \$20 per game to start and must attend an umpire clinic given by the league.

Noe Valley kids can participate in the league through their local playgrounds. Interested players and coaches should contact Ellen Perieff at 753-7029. For information about umpiring and the clinic, call Roger Bross at 586-9600.

## Tackling Telephone Pole Blight

The East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, one of Noe Valley's oldest neighborhood associations, is making plans to stamp out those unsightly flyers that seem to spring up overnight on telephone poles.

The group will conduct a sweep of Castro Street, removing handbills and graffiti from all utility and lamp poles. Then they'll repaint the poles and affix a decal that reads: "Respect Our Neighborhood — Post No Signs or Handbills."

The only flyers that might be spared are lost pet notices and same-day garage sales, says Paul Kantus, president of East & West. But political flyers and advertising bills will definitely be stripped.

Merchants and volunteers in the Castro District have already begun the cleanup along Castro Street from Market to 21st. East & West's job will be to cover Castro from 21st to 27th Street.

The group has voted to purchase the decals, and plans to set a date for the project later in February. For the scoop, call Kantus at 647-3753.

## Nature Walks in Glen Canyon

Believe it or not, flowers are already blooming in Glen Canyon Park. And two plant-related events will take place this month, starting with the Spring Flowers Walk on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 9 a.m. "First our leader gives an introduction, and then we go off to see what's in bloom," says Jean Conner of the Friends of Glen Park Canyon. The walk will be led by a guide from the California Native Plant Society.

The following Saturday, on Feb. 21 at 9 a.m., the Friends will sponsor a Glen Canyon Plant Restoration outing. "Right now we are removing non-native plants in areas where there are a lot of native plants," says Conner, "because it helps the native plants to grow."

Helpers should come wearing work clothes and gardening gloves. The group usually works until about 11:30 and then stops for a walk through Glen Canyon Park.

For both events, use the park entrance at Elk and Chenery streets, and meet behind the Recreation Center. Jean Conner can be reached at 584-8576.

## Dial 777-3399 for Youth

Kids who need advice have a new resource in San Francisco — a telephone service called Youthline.

Callers can talk to trained "listeners" ages 16 to 22. The listeners have computerized mapping and database systems to help kids get information on places to go and things to do in San Francisco. Callers can also talk to people their own age about problems or frustrations. Though Youthline is not a crisis hotline, the staff is trained in crisis intervention and can refer callers to other agencies.

The program also functions as a paid job-training program for the all-youth

*Continued on Page 24*

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# SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 23

staff, who gain valuable counseling and office skills. The line is open daily from noon to midnight, and is sponsored by Communities in Harmony Advocating for Learning and Kids (CHALK) and the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Their Families.

The toll-free Youthline number is 888-977-3399, or call locally at 777-3399.

## Are Chains Out of Control?

With more chains and franchise businesses popping up on 24th Street all the time—and since an 18-month moratorium on coffee stores and juice bars just expired in October—neighborhood groups are again lobbying to rein in growth along Noe Valley's commercial strip.

Over the past couple of months, members of Friends of Noe Valley have talked with San Francisco Supervisor Sue Bier-

man about extending the moratorium on specialty stores. Their concern is that 24th Street is so full of trendy cafes and takeouts that the high rents may force out the small-town shopkeeper.

According to Friends planning chair Claire Pilcher, the neighborhood also has too many "destination businesses"—stores and restaurants that serve tourists rather than local residents. By putting a halt on growth, the Friends hope to preserve Noe Valley's distinct personality.

Supervisor Bierman's office says she is interested to hear the opinions of other neighborhood residents about the moratorium in Noe Valley. You can contact her at 554-6661.

Meanwhile, Friends of Noe Valley is also working with the Noe Valley Democratic Club to cosponsor a neighborhood forum on chains this spring. Though the two groups have not yet set a date, Democratic Club President Dave Monks says, "We're hoping to include small merchants and neighborhood people who have fought neighborhood battles. The point is to give neighborhoods more tools to control their destiny." For information about the forum, call Monks at 821-4087.

## Film Seeks Unusual Families

Is your family different but everybody seems to get along fine anyway?

Maybe you'd be a good candidate for *My Family Is Special*, a video being produced by Women's Educational Media to introduce kids in kindergarten through third grade to different family makeups.

The producers would like to film short profiles of families that include articulate, outgoing kids of all races between the ages of 7 and 10. The kids should fit into one of the following categories: children of single or divorced parents; adopted kids; children who are being raised by a family member other than their mother or father; or children of lesbian, gay, or bisexual parents. "We are looking for a really diverse group of families," says associate producer Ariella Ben-Dov.

Some families will be selected for in-studio portraits, which will take about 40 minutes each. Five families will be featured in the final film; the producers will spend a day with these families "like a fly on the wall," Ben-Dov said.

Women's Educational Media is an Academy Award winning company. One of its films is already being used by teachers in the San Francisco public schools. The producers plan to finish filming *My Family Is Special* within about four months. Though there is no set deadline, Ben-Dov urges interested families to contact her as soon as possible by calling 641-4616 or e-mailing [wemajbd@aol.com](mailto:wemajbd@aol.com).

This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant and Dodie Hamblen.

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**

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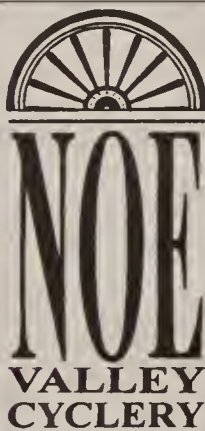
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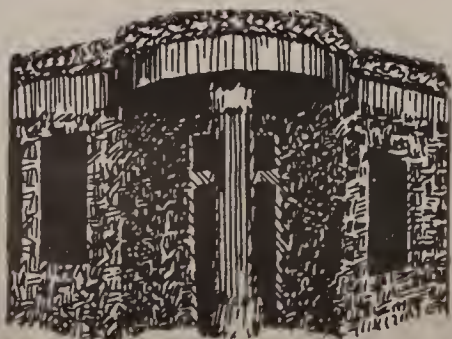
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## Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

### Don't Sacrifice One S.F. Landmark To Build Another

By Tim Kelley

I would like to bring *Voice* readers up to date on the controversy surrounding the Fallon Building, the 1894 Victorian at 1800 Market St. now owned by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center Project (CCP) and threatened with demolition by its owners. Negotiations are currently taking place in the mayor's office between the CCP and groups who support construction of the new community center but oppose demolition of this important historical structure.

The CCP, a nonprofit corporation, acquired the property in December 1996 for \$1.1 million, all of which was supplied by the Mayor's Office of Community Development out of public funds. The parcel includes the Fallon Building and adjacent property, most of which is vacant.

Although they first declared their intention to restore the Fallon Building as part of the new center, in September 1997 the CCP began to back away from that commitment. They called for public input, and at the one meeting held for that purpose received overwhelming and passionate testimony in favor of saving the building. Speaker after speaker said that as gay people they were appalled that a gay organization would even think of destroying this building.

Despite that spontaneous outpouring, the CCP directors voted that same evening to "build an entirely new building"—that is, to tear down the Fallon Building and construct a modernist, glass and steel building on the site.

Since then, opposition has grown. Thousands of people have signed petitions calling for the building to be saved, and a proposal to designate the building a San Francisco landmark has been placed on the agenda of the Landmarks Advisory Board.

It has also come to light that in 1996 Caltrans did a historical survey of the area in conjunction with planning for the Central Freeway. The agency's historians found this building so significant as to be eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a rating with which the State Historic

Preservation Office concurred in May 1997. Unfortunately, although the building is preapproved, it cannot be officially listed on the National Register without the agreement of the owners. Local landmarking, however, can take place—although it too is difficult without the owners' consent.

The historic significance is based on several factors. The building is the only survivor of a type that used to line Market Street before the Earthquake and Fire of 1906, when everything east of it was destroyed. It is a three-story, mixed residential and commercial building, trapezoidal in shape in order to fit its oddly shaped lot, which is formed by the intersection of Market, Octavia, and Waller streets.

Thanks to years of "benign neglect," the building is still virtually intact. One storefront is absolutely unaltered since the time of construction, an extremely rare circumstance.

There is only one other such original storefront in all of San Francisco.

The building was constructed in 1894 by Carmel and Anita Fallon, mother and daughter descendants of the Castro family, wealthy landowners in Mexican California. The Castros were one of the few Mexican families who were able to hold on to their land after the American conquest. The Fallons lived there for over 30 years, until Carmel died in her 90s. It is one of the only buildings in the city connected with the original Californio families.

Public support is crucial—if a building this significant in San Francisco history can fall and be replaced by a bland glass box, then none of the Victorian neighborhoods, including Noe Valley, will be safe.

I would like to ask anyone who supports the construction of the new community center but who opposes demolition of the Fallon Building to call the hotline that has been established at (415) 643-1236, or send email to [sfhistory@aol.com](mailto:sfhistory@aol.com). Together we can save this historical treasure from the wrecking ball. □

*Tim Kelley is a neighborhood and architectural historian and frequent contributor to the Voice.*

### Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your essays, opinion pieces, and other reflections on neighborhood people, places, and politics. Mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 800 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Send an SASE and a phone number, too. Thanks.

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# FEBRUARY



**NOW:** February is American HEART MONTH. Call 1-800-AHA-USA1 for education, information, and events.

**NOW:** Sign up now for Yerba Buena Center's VOLUNTEER gallery tour guide training class, to begin March 6. Call 978-2710, ext. 115, for an application.

**FEB. 1-15:** Gallery Luscombe presents "Love Struck," a group ARTISTS' EXHIBITION. Reception Feb. 14, 3-6 pm. 3040 24th St. 285-8545.

**FEB. 1-28:** The SPCA's Protect-A-Pet VACCINATION CLINIC offers \$2 dog or cat immunizations to pet owners with limited incomes. 2500 16th St. Call 554-3030 to make an appointment.

**FEB. 3, 10 & 24:** The Noe Valley Library offers a STORY TIME for preschoolers ages 3-5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 3, 10, 17 & 24:** The Ingleside Branch Library hosts a CHESS & CHECKERS club for children of all ages. 3:30 pm. 387 Ashton Ave. 337-4745.

**FEB. 3, 10, 17 & 24:** Gotta dance? Lauren Coleman's mixed-level JAZZ MOVES class continues Tuesdays at 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2782.

**FEB. 3-MARCH 14:** The children's ART SHOW in the gallery at 17 Reasons features students' work from preschool to middle school. Reception Feb. 8, 4-6 pm. 3961 24th St. 206-1717.

**FEB. 4:** A BAZAAR put on by the 30th Street Senior Center offers handicrafts, artwork, and baked goods for sale. 10 am-3 pm. 225 30th St.

**FEB. 4:** The Adventist HEALTHVAN stops to give blood pressure checks and cholesterol screenings at Bell Market. 10 am-4 pm. 775-2570.

**FEB. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** The Noe Valley Library's ongoing LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents starts at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 771-9994.

**FEB. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** All levels of players are welcome at the SCRABBLE NIGHTS at the Bernal Heights Library. 7:15 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

**FEB. 5:** Make a VALENTINE CARD at the Excelsior Branch Library's craft program for ages 5 and older. 4 pm. 4400 Mission St. 337-4735.

**FEB. 6:** Real-life Denver PRIVATE DETECTIVE and Shamus Award winner Mike Stone drops by to sign his third mystery, *Token of Remorse*. 5-6 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**FEB. 6-8 & 13-15:** Dancers' Group Studio Theater presents "The Secret Truth of History," original CHOREOGRAPHY by Mary Armentrout. 8 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

**FEB. 7:** Community Music Center students perform jazz, classical music, and original compositions at the annual MID-YEAR CONCERT. 11 am. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**FEB. 7:** Learn about avian eating habits at "BIRD BUFFET," a Randall Museum workshop for ages 5 and up (under 8 with parent). 1 pm. 199 Museum Way 554-9600.

**FEB. 7:** The San Francisco branch of the American FUCHSIA SOCIETY gives a pruning demonstration. 1-2:30 pm. Sloat Garden Center, 2700 Sloat Blvd. 566-4415.



Guitarist Alex de Grassi joins Peppino D'Agostino at the Noe Valley Music Series on Friday, Feb. 27, 8:15 pm. Photo by Barry Muniz.

**FEB. 7:** The SHARON ART STUDIO celebrates its 30th anniversary with a gala benefit featuring food, cocktails, entertainment, and demonstrations. 7-10 pm. Golden Gate Park, Sharon Building. 753-7005.

**FEB. 7, 8, 12 & 13:** Kestutis Nakas' PERFORMANCE *Dead Man Talking - Confessions of a Zombie* recounts the story of a New Orleans tourist who meets voodoo queen Marie Laveau. Thurs.-Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

**FEB. 7:** New Dawn YOGA THERAPY's "Fundamentals of Asana" series features lateral postures. 2-6 pm. The Center for Movement Education, 98 Chenery St. 285-1831.

**FEB. 7, 10 & 24:** The SPCA holds volunteer orientations for CAT SOCIALIZERS, dog walkers, and adoption counselors. Feb. 7, 10 am-noon; Feb. 10 & 24, 5-7 pm. Education Center, 243 Alabama St. 554-3000.

**FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The Mission Branch Library offers a FAMILY STORY TIME for children age 2 and older. 11 am. 2601 Mission St. 695-5090.

**FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The Marsh offers drop-in ART CLASSES for kids of all ages. 11-11:45 am. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

**FEB. 8:** Tenor Richard Kennedy and pianist Dana Chapman perform a RECITAL featuring works by Beethoven, Schumann, and Berg. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**FEB. 8:** Noe Valley Ministry's TAIZE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**FEB. 10:** Kit Kennedy and Glen Chesnut read from their POETRY at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

**FEB. 11:** Storyteller Yolanda Rhodes performs in celebration of BLACK HISTORY MONTH. 7 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

**FEB. 12:** The S.F. Recreation and Park Department sponsors the 21st annual free VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE for seniors. 12:30-3:30 pm. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park. 666-7079.

**FEB. 12:** ZYZZYVA hosts "Forgotten San Francisco," actors' readings from Frank, Charles, and Kathleen Norris. 6:30 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

**FEB. 12:** Contributors to the POLITICAL ZINE *Bad Subjects* will be on hand to discuss their work and beliefs. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**FEB. 12-MARCH 8:** The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros presents LOU REDA's "Happy Anniversary." Thurs.-Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

**FEB. 13:** High schoolers are invited to the Randall Museum's Cine Club screening of Hiroshi Teshigahara's film *Woman in the Dunes*. 7 pm. 199 Museum Way, 864-2026.

**FEB. 13-MARCH 14:** Local artists Ken Fandell, Kelsey Nicholson, and Ronnie Ong exhibit INSTALLATIONS at Southern Exposure. Reception Feb. 13, 6-8 pm. 401 Alabama St. 863-2141.

**FEB. 14:** A BOOK SALE sponsored by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library features romances (and other books) under a dollar. 9 am-3 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4257.

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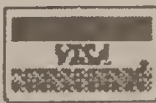
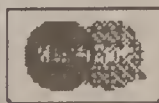


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# CALENDAR



**FEB. 14:** The scientific and educational research organization **TECHNOCRACY** presents a current events discussion on crime, poverty, and the environment. 2 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 14:** Jayson Wechter's Chinese New Year **TREASURE HUNT** offers three levels of difficulty and sends participants scrambling around Chinatown, the Financial District, and North Beach. A potluck celebration follows. 5 pm, rain or shine. 564-9585.

**FEB. 14:** The **CHINESE NEW YEAR** parade celebrates the year of the tiger. 5:30-8 pm, along Market and Kearny streets.

**FEB. 14, 15, 21 & 22:** The eighth annual San Francisco Zoo Valentine's Day **SEX TOUR** includes shocking facts about Porky and Bess, plus a visit with the wart hogs (for adults 18 and over). 9 am & 3 pm. Call 753-7165 for required reservations.

**FEB. 15:** Gay and straight couples are invited to renew their vows at a service of love and **RE-COMMITMENT**. 11 am. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

**FEB. 15:** Noe Valley **CHAMBER MUSIC** presents Steve Dibner and friends performing a "double reed extravaganza." 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9444.

**FEB. 15:** Actor **PAUL ROBESON** and the U.N. Convention Against All Forms of Racial Discrimination will be honored in a 2 pm celebration at the Main Library. 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

**FEB. 17:** The Noe Valley Library shows **FILMS** for children ages 3 to 5 at 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 17:** The S.F. AIDS Foundation hosts an interactive **FORUM** for men, "The Man Hunt: Dateless in San Francisco." 7-9 pm. Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. 487-8010.

**FEB. 18:** **EDUCATOR** David Ramirez from Cal State Long Beach discusses "Preparing Our Children for the Next Century." 7-8:30 pm. Alvarado School, 625 Douglass St. 695-5695.

**FEB. 18-APRIL 22:** James Joyce's *Ulysses* **READING GROUP**, led by Michael Rosenthal, meets for 10 Wed. nights, 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**FEB. 19:** **DIANE DI PRIMA** and Rachel Guido deVries read from their work at the Poetry Center at San Francisco State. 4:30 pm. 1600 Holloway Ave. 338-2227.

**FEB. 20:** Electric bassist Michael Manning joins flutist Larry Kassin and pianist Tom Darter in an evening of musical **IMPROVISATION**. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**FEB. 20-MARCH 8:** Miracle Theatre presents Mime Troupe veteran **AUDREY SMITH** in a "musical journey," *Audrey Does Kennedy*. Fri. & Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

**FEB. 21:** **CHILDREN'S TRAIN DAY** at the Randall Museum offers a chance to engineer San Francisco's largest model railroad. 12:30-4 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**FEB. 21:** U.C.S.F. sponsors a class, "Safe, Strong, and Streetwise: **SELF-DEFENSE** and Assertiveness for Girls and Boys." 1:30-5:30 pm. Milberry Fitness Center, Studio 2, 500 Parnassus St. 476-5222.

**FEB. 22:** Bethany Church hosts a **MARDI GRAS** celebration with a Dixieland jazz service and a New Orleans brunch. 11 am. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

**FEB. 22:** The Community Music Center **FACULTY CONCERT** of American music features pianists Bryan Baker and Suzanne Garrazone, and soprano Pamela Sebastian. 3 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**FEB. 22:** **FINGERPICKING GUITAR** legends Alex DeGrassi and Peppino D'Agostino perform at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**FEB. 24:** Joan Brady, Jon Greene, and Marie Henry read from their **POETRY** at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

**FEB. 25:** Explore **INTERNET BASICS** using Lynx and Netscape browsers at the Main Library. 5:30 pm. Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. 557-4401.

**FEB. 26:** Bonnie Lockhart performs "Songs and **MUSIC GAMES** from Around the World" for ages 3 to 5 at the Noe Valley Library. 10 & 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 26:** Tom Henry and Nancy de Stefanis show slides and a video of the **GREAT BLUE HERONS** nesting in Golden Gate Park. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way 554-9604.

**FEB. 27-MARCH 21:** The Holy Theatre performs a daring tribal version of Sophocles' **ANTIGONE**. Thurs.-Sat., 7:30 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 pm. Yugen/Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. 621-7797.

**FEB. 27:** Two fingerpicking guitar legends—Alex de Grassi and Peppino D'Agostino—return to the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**FEB. 28:** Rent a table at James Lick Middle School's **FLEA MARKET** and benefit the band and P.E. departments, while you cash in on your collectibles. 8 am-3 pm. For info call Brian Charron at 282-1864.

**FEB. 28:** **GAMELAN SEKAR JAYA** and guests perform the music of Bali. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

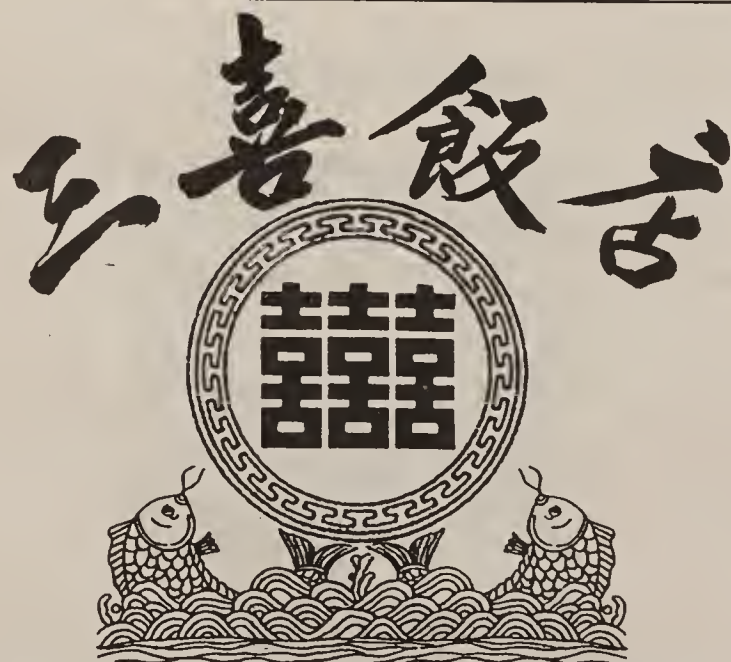


## The Winds of March

The next *Voice* will be the March 1998 issue, due out Wednesday, March 3. If you'd like to publicize an upcoming event, send us your announcement quick: The deadline for Calendar items is **Feb. 15**. (Yes, it's a short month—sorry.)

The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can email us at [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com).

If you have questions or last-minute changes, call Calendar Editor Karol Barske at 285-6347. □



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# Songwriter Leaves the Circus for The Theater

By Jeff Kaliss

Glance at the handbill for the Miracle Theatre's new musical revue, *Audrey Does Kennedy*, and your curiosity is bound to be tickled. The flyer shows a blissful female (singer Audrey Smith) stretched out in bed beside a huge acoustic string bass (belonging to composer Mark Kennedy). What's going on with this show, which opens at the Marsh on Valencia Street on the 20th of this month?

"Most people will not have heard anything I've written," says Kennedy, relaxing not too far from his real-life bed on Arlington Street, near Fairmount School in "outer" Noe Valley.

Actually, you might well have heard his songs, if you've ever enjoyed the band at the Pickle Family Circus or Make\*a\*Circus. Kennedy worked as a composer and bass player for one or the other of those two troupes for almost 20 years.

And if you were listening closely, you might have realized that San Francisco was spawning a new circus sound, several years in advance of the much bigger, better-promoted Cirque de Soleil.

"It was in a jazz idiom, but we wrote it as if it were a dance," Kennedy says about his creations for the Pickles. "We tried to make it as unlike John Philip Sousa as possible. Not to say that we reinvented circus music, but we had a part in it."

The funny but sardonic melodies that once accompanied jugglers and trapeze artists will be a part of his new Miracle Theatre show, but "there are quite a few different styles of music," the composer points out. In *Audrey Does Kennedy*, singer Audrey Smith will mine the best of Kennedy's rich repertoire, including "bebop vocals, a couple of reggae tunes, show tunes, blues tunes, rock tunes, and a couple of love songs."

The variety draws on the influences of Kennedy's musical past. Raised in Vermont, he went on to study art at the Ringling School in Sarasota, Florida (founded, ironically, by one of the circus-promoting brothers). But he soon decided it was more exciting to tour New England and New York State, playing electric bass with several rock bands in the late '60s and early '70s.

Later, after some training in classical music, Kennedy moved on to acoustic stand-up bass and jazz studies at Boston's Berklee College of Music. He then married a San Francisco woman, Laurie Cohen, and was convinced to relocate to her hometown in 1975.

"I knew I couldn't make a living in Vermont—there's no way you can play jazz there," Kennedy claims. "But there was a 24-hour jazz station in San Francisco; and the jazz scene seemed not quite as intimidating as in New York."

Indeed, he picked up a gig accompanying singer Michelle Hendricks at Gatsby's in Sausalito. But his relationship with the acoustic bass was interrupted by



Ex-circus musician Mark Kennedy still plucks the strings at clubs like Enrico's, and teaches guitar and bass out of his home. But this month he's crossing his fingers for *Audrey Does Kennedy*, a musical revue of his songs premiering at the Marsh on Feb. 20. Photo by Charles Kennard

a case of tendonitis in 1976, and a physician told him he'd never play again.

Kennedy's reaction was to return to electric bass—using a pick was less of a strain—and to start teaching at the then-new Blue Bear School of Music. In the late '70s, a drummer friend recruited him into the Pickles, in what Kennedy recalls as "the golden years of that show."

"Bill Irwin was working for them, Geoff Hoyle, Wendy Parkman. The people in the show were great, all very bright and talented," says Kennedy, noting some of the names that have gone on to film and other national exposure. "And Larry Pisoni, who'd founded the Circus, was a musician himself, so he pretty much left it up to us what we wanted to do."

Kennedy's music was inspired partly by such Broadway tunesmiths as Irving Berlin and Cole Porter, as well as by jazz's best-known bassist, the late Charles Mingus. "He was a bass player who was a leader and a writer, and his stuff was wild, with almost a circus quality."

Kennedy toured extensively with the Pickles and borrows from Dickens in summing up that experience:

"It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. I've never been in a show where I got so much back from an audience. In two out of three performances, there'd be a standing ovation...."

"But [on the road] we had to sleep in our tents, and the living in close proximity got to be very difficult, because there was no way of getting away from people."

Even though he quit the Pickles in 1984 after six years, Kennedy found he couldn't get away from the circus life altogether. Trumpeter Michael Moore, who'd also quit, urged his colleague to

join another homegrown ensemble, Make\*a\*Circus. "He told me that they didn't travel, they just did local shows, and it was only three rather than nine months out of the year...so I said yes."

The switch to Make\*a\*Circus actually provided new compositional challenges. "Even though it was a smaller show with less exposure, their thrust at the time was to have a script, along with the circus skills. So that gave me an opportunity to write more musical theater-type stuff, songs that had lyrics."

Kennedy then sought other outlets for his newly fashioned talent, which led him to found the Miracle Theatre in 1993 with former Pickle clown Joan Mankin and Make\*a\*Circus veteran Paoli Lacy, also of Dell'Arte Players fame.

"We all had a circus background, so we decided to found a company that had some physical comedy along with live music and text. We did a show called *Un-chartered Ways* at the Marsh in '94, which Joan and I performed in. We produced Diane Wozniak [a popular Pickle clown] at the Bayfront. And then we did *The Two-Bit Tango* at Josie's Cabaret."

Following the last *Tango* run in early 1997, Kennedy decided to leave Make\*a\*Circus. "I was about to turn 50...and there was quite a bit of physical labor involved in setting up and striking [taking down] the show. Trying to keep up with 20-year-old acrobats...that I wouldn't miss."

He turned his attention to Audrey

Smith, the featured performer in *Tango* and a staple of the San Francisco Mime Troupe during the time Kennedy served with the Pickles.

"In many ways I see her as the things I'm not," Kennedy says of the woman who will sing his songs in the latest Miracle production at the Marsh. "Most importantly, Audrey has a good voice, with a tremendous range. And she also has great stage presence and can act. So she can take lyrics that I wrote, and all the nuances come out. She can dramatize anything."

In *Audrey Does Kennedy*, Smith "will play a singer, a little girl, a grandmother, a Jamaican reggae star, and a sleazy guy. She'll be on stage performing and then step back, and we will see her being off-stage and talking with the piano player [current Pickle Circus music director Jeffrey Gaeto] and singing songs while she does her costume changes."

The show's script (aside from Kennedy's songs) is by Mercilee Jenkins and direction by Paoli Lacy. (Lacy is artistic director of the Miracle, which is headquartered on 16th Street.)

Gaeto is sole accompanist. After opening night, Kennedy will be out playing bass at gigs at Enrico's, Maxfield's, and elsewhere "to help finance this thing."

Kennedy earns half his money by performing and half by teaching guitar and acoustic and electric bass, both at his Arlington Street home and at the Community Music Center on Capp Street. More than a few of his students are from Noe Valley, "and I hope to get more."

Although now divorced, Kennedy and his former wife clearly passed on a love of music to their son Miles, who at 18 is a jazz drummer attending New York University and jamming a few blocks away at the Blue Note. "Miles doesn't know enough to be intimidated," says his proud father.

The elder Kennedy hopes that his new musical revue, drawn from decades of songwriting, will be seen and heard as more than just a creative approach to midlife crisis. "Things in my life haven't always been so upbeat, and I tend to be kind of a dark person," he admits. "So there's an edge to my music. But it has humor, irony, and satire, with a little biting social commentary. It plays on a few different levels." □

The show *Audrey Does Kennedy* will run Fridays and Saturdays (8:30 p.m.), and Sundays (7:30 p.m.), Feb. 20 through March 8. For ticket information, call the Marsh at 826-5750. The club is located at 1062 Valencia St. near 22nd Street.



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## Things Are Humming At Good Vibrations

By Rayne Wolfe

When you travel through Baja Noe, it's easy to overlook Good Vibrations, the "sexuality boutique" at 1210 Valencia St. After all, the building's facade is nondescript, and the storefront windows are completely opaque. But the employees deny, deny, deny ducking Kenneth Starr and his army of subpoena servers. The truth is, they've covered up the windows out of consideration for their neighbors across the street—a city grammar school.

The crew at Good Vibrations is on a mission. They want to increase communication about s-e-x. They've been a class act since 1977, when sex therapist Joani Blank christened the original 200-square-foot store at 3416 22nd St. And 20 years later, the tradition of good taste continues.

In a woman-owned-and-operated business, there's no room for the out-and-out sleaze typical of most sex aid purveyors. In other words, if you're looking for blow-up dolls, catch a bus to North Beach.

Consider the results of a recent *Ladies Home Journal* readership poll: 47% of women use erotica or pornography to heighten lovemaking, 30% of women use sex toys—and surprise, surprise—42% of women want more sex.

If you live near Good Vibrations, you might want to practice that old grammar school drill—duck and cover!—because the stock is flying off the shelves.

Currently, 72 employees (six of whom are men) work in this unique co-op environment. With sales split 60/40 between female and male customers, the staff is happy to assist customers of all stripes. The workers pride themselves on service without any sexual chips on their shoulders. Remember their motto: "Sex toys are a universal pleasure."

Once inside, shoppers can browse through four product areas, as mellow music floats through the softly carpeted room. Newcomers may find that the book corner—with everything from coffee-table tomes on the history of pin-ups to hardcore erotica—is the least intimidating spot to start. There's a bench tucked under a potted palm to allow for relaxed review of titles. Thumb through *Best American Erotica 1993-1997* or *The Claiming of Sleeping Beauty*, the first in the Anne Rice trilogy. Or check out my current favorite: *The Best of American Girlie Magazines*, a chunky paperback on the art and history of '50s pulp magazines.

Those who prefer audio/visual stimulation can scan the video library. The store has movies for purchase or rent. Or if you've made more than one bad viewing decision based on the video box photos, you can flip through the *Good Vibrations Guide to Adult Videos*. This notebook gives customer reviews of videos grouped by category, such as "amateur," "golden age," "couples," "educational," and "woman-centered."

Then there's the lotion and oils area, chock full of everything needed for massage and lubrication. This is not your cherry licorice-flavored underpants kind of thing, though. As *Cosmopolitan* magazine noted, what you'll find here is "more Body Shop than Pink Pussycat."

Of course, one rear corner of the shop offers a floor-to-ceiling display of dildos, in all sizes, colors, and plastic consistencies. (Some are hung in black leather harnesses and point to the center of the room, perhaps making more than one person feel like a whale swimming into a harpoon convention.)

But the biggest draw at Good Vibrations has got to be the vibrator collection. Customers crowd around to test the speed and sound of dozens of pink, black, and fluorescent-green "vibes" perched on the shelves. You can closely inspect the waterproof Aquassager, or fire up the Turbo Rocket. Or even try out a remote-controlled vibrator with a range of 20 feet!

On tables throughout the room is evidence of just how busy the buyers at Good Vibrations must be, combing the world

for the latest products to bundle into special gift packs. They've already set out an assortment for Valentine's Day. Maybe the love of your life would appreciate the "Cupid's Stash Pack" or a "Hot Date Kit." There's always "Good Vibes to Go," a sexual pleasure starter kit that even Aunt Hazel might like.

If heavy rains or just plain shyness prevent you from strolling down to Good Vibrations, you can log on to the store's web site, [www.goodvibes.com](http://www.goodvibes.com). Open Enterprises—an umbrella company for Good Vibrations, Down There Press, and the Sexuality Library—launched the site in 1996 and pulled in a whopping six grand the first month. Open Enterprises' current monthly online sales are \$42,000, a figure that helped thrust the company onto *PC Computing* magazine's Top 100 Cyberstores list. (The Good Vibrations store, which also runs a mail-order division, has been named one of the Top 100 Fastest Growing Businesses and the Top 50 Woman-Owned Businesses in the Bay Area, two lists published by the *San Francisco Business Times*.)

The web site's popularity is understandable. Most people can't resist clicking on

With sex on everybody's minds these days, the employee-owners at Good Vibrations, including (l. to r.) Gina Gomez, Michaela MP, Mindi Levine (seated), and Cheryl Tesch, are pleased to help people relax and enjoy it.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

the antique vibrator museum.

Well, Good Vibrations the store is the home of the original museum. And the shop regularly exhibits artists' work. Photographer Laurie Toby Edison will display pictures of male nudes in February.

And don't forget Good Vibes' calendar of classes and speakers. This month you can sign up for Male Erotic Massage (Feb. 9), Lesbian Porn 101 (Feb. 16), or the Romance of Restraint (Feb. 23)—a nice opportunity to learn your basic knots.

You can also enter the shop's Guess the Condoms (in the jar) Contest in honor of National Condom Week, Feb. 14 to 21.

The store, located on Valencia near 23rd, is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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The Muni tracks that wind over the hill from Dolores Park to Noe Valley provide a shortcut for the occasional pedestrian. Brave or foolish, all but the totally deaf can hear the new J-cars coming round the bend.

Photo by Leo Holub



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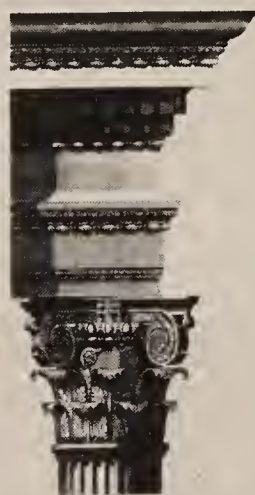
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**Moving in mysterious ways.** The Voice's stakeout of the colorful vehicle above failed to reveal if the driver was just a big fan—or the J Man himself.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



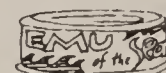
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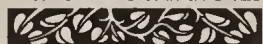
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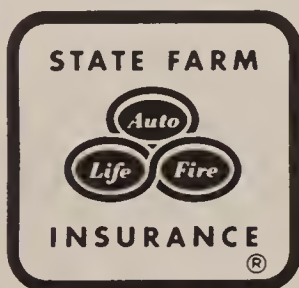
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It's Not Victorian Style, but this photo was indeed taken in Noe Valley (on 22nd Street)—not the Marina. The love of garden statuary exists citywide, and our fondness for concrete lions could serve as the subject of a photo essay all to itself. Photo by Ed Buryn

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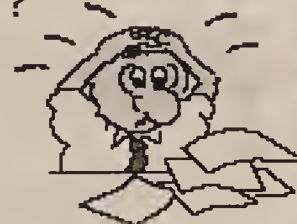
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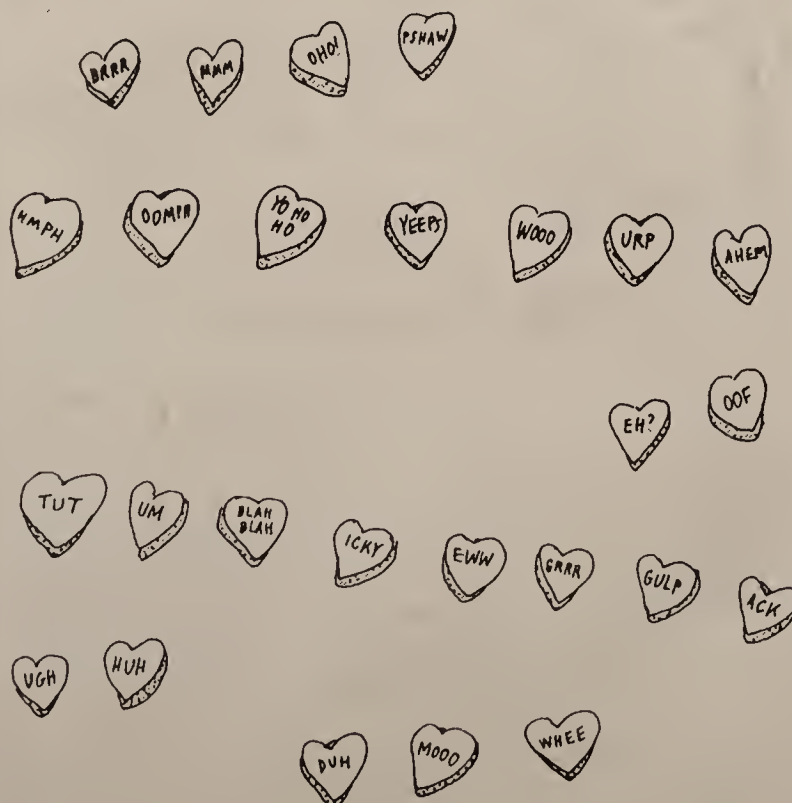
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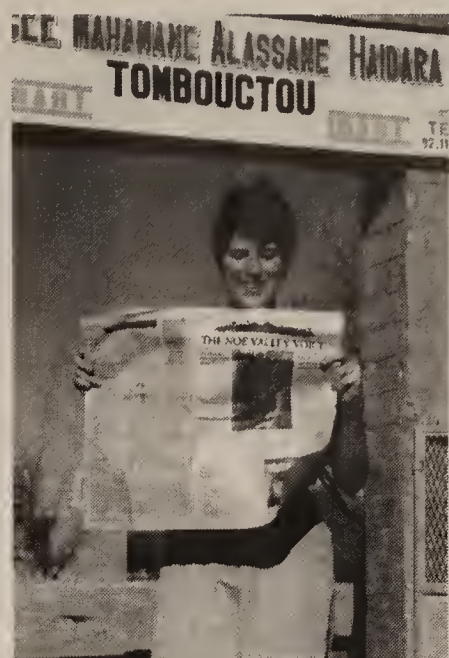
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Yes, **Kate McNulty** of 25th Street went from here to Timbuktu (the sign above is in French). She spent Christmas there in the northern part of Mali, West Africa, visiting her sister, a Peace Corps volunteer.

## You've Got to Love Those Readers

Is anyone out there reading? You bet. And they're writing and taking snapshots and sending them in to us for proof. It's certainly welcome mail. Thanks to all of you.



**George Powers** ponders a page of the hometown news while resting among the ruins of Olympia, Greece. Behind the camera is his wife, **Christine Chorney**.



Thirtieth Street residents **Kate Depman** and **Jim Woods** paused for a news break in the medieval French village of Saintes, on the Atlantic coast of Bordeaux.



Anyone recognize these readers? The photo—of two soldiers recently assigned to an operation in South Korea—came our way from the 14th U.S. Coast Guard in Hawaii. Our editor in charge hadn't been able to identify them by deadline.



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## **Voice Portfolio**

**View from Inside St. Paul's to Church Street**

**by Pamela Gerard**



# FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

## How I Spent My Winter Vacation

After reading young Rayne Wolfe's funny piece in the December *Voice* on the advantages of drafting one's own obituary, I was tempted to spend the holidays writing mine. After all, I was about to celebrate my 79th birthday in January. But having survived the Christmas rush—and all the high-fat goodies that go along with it—I decided that it would be unwise to tempt fate.

So instead, I devoted the rest of December to sending off the greeting cards that our printer son Eric made from a drawing I did of St. Mark's Basilica when Leo and I visited Venice in 1982. The beautiful 11th-century basilica has been carefully tended and preserved over the ages, despite the fact that it is threatened year after year by water lapping at its front door.

Meanwhile, scientists say that the North and South Poles are melting at an alarming rate. They predict that all of

the shorelines around the world will be under water in time—including ours!

With this in mind, I would like to renew my plea to keep San Francisco's own most valuable institutions of art and science—the de Young Museum and the Academy of Sciences—on the high ground where they now stand in Golden Gate Park!

There would be no reason even to consider relocating them except that over the past seven or eight years, the Recreation and Park Department has restricted car access to Golden Gate Park on Sundays and is now planning to do the same on Saturdays. I am against these restrictions, and so I composed the following letter to include in my greeting card to various civic leaders:

"On the morning of Sunday, November 23, I had a little research to do at the de Young Museum, where I work as a volunteer docent. My husband Leo drove me to Eighth Avenue and Fulton Street, where we noted that all the nearby streets were solidly lined with automobiles. The park roads had been closed off to motor traffic, in order to accommodate strollers, skaters, bikers, and skateboarders.

"But where were the pedestrians? Once upon a time, the concourse would have been alive with activity at 10:30 on a sunny Sunday morning. Yet up and down JFK Drive as far as the eye could see, the thoroughfare was devoid of either cars or people. Inside the museum, only the guards ambled through the galleries, although the previous Sunday paper had announced in full color

the arrival of the dazzling Ikat exhibition of splendid silks from Central Asia. What a waste—of the park as well as the facilities within the concourse!

"Long ago—after 1894 for the de Young and following the 1906 Earthquake for the Academy of Sciences—a wiser Recreation and Park Department granted space in Golden Gate Park to these two worthy cultural establishments, and a beautiful oasis of culture was created. But more recently, in an undemocratic act of betrayal, they adopted a plan that denied public access on the most popular day and so curtailed needed entry fees that finance operation and education.

"I write to you as a docent at both the de Young and the Academy of Sciences who fully realizes how many young minds are opened and informed by these institutions, which offer much that cannot be duplicated in the public schools. It is now urgent that something be done to reverse and control the Recreation and Park Department's mindless and ruinous actions.

"For this reason I applaud Supervisor Michael Yaki's well-thought-out proposal to keep open at all times the thoroughfares from 10th Avenue eastward to the concourse."

Wishing to be sure that the man with the most clout received my message, I hand-delivered it to Mayor Willie Brown's office. His secretary then graciously directed me to another office where I needed to attend to a different

matter. Six months earlier, I had offered to give the city a painting of City Hall, which I had done to honor the reopening of the newly retrofitted building (scheduled for 1999).

I sat waiting in a bustling office full of cubicles, until finally a woman came striding toward me, smiling and extending her hand. She had recognized the name on my card, from having read the *Voice* when she used to live on Chattanooga Street in Noe Valley.

Her name was Naomi Weinstein, and she kindly explained how my offer to donate the painting would have to slowly wend its way through a bureaucratic maze before reaching the San Francisco Art Commission, where a final decision would be made.

I took my leave thinking that although this process might well take more years than I've got, it was still a pleasure to meet such a helpful civic employee—one with fond memories of Noe Valley.

To show my gratitude, I sent her a note on our Venice greeting card, with my December column tucked inside.

I am including the same illustration for this article as the one we used for our card, along with my best New Year's wishes to all the good people of Noe Valley. In addition, as a reward to those of you who have stayed with me so far, I would like to share an amusing item from a column by Ken Garcia, which ran in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Dec. 27, 1997.

Garcia (who is a fine writer, by the way) wrote that his sister, a nurse at Kaiser Hospital in Marin, had tipped him off to a psychiatric hotline joke:

*If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly.*

*If you are co-dependent, ask someone to press 2.*

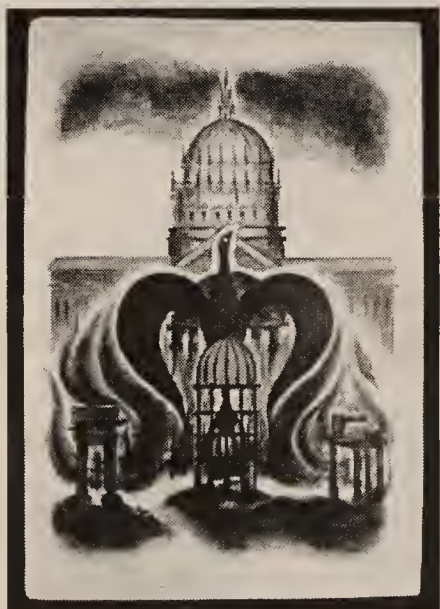
*If you are a multiple personality, press 3, 4, 5, and 6.*

*If you are paranoid, we know who you are and are tracing the call.*

*If you are schizophrenic, a little voice will tell you what to do.*

*If you are depressed, it doesn't matter what you do, nobody cares anyway.*

In my opinion, if you do not fit into any one category, that means you are a well-balanced person—and probably one who lives in Noe Valley! □



Florence wants to donate this painting to San Francisco. But it may take years for City Hall to accept and record the gift.



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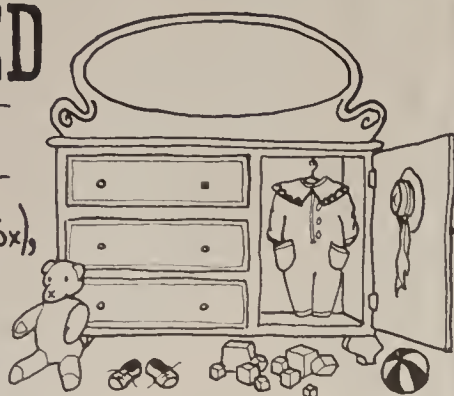


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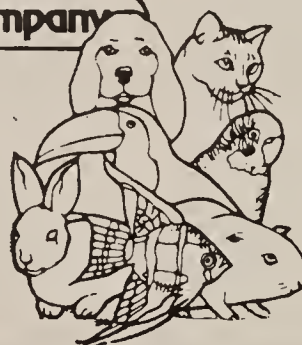
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**Smile if you liked preschool:** This class photo, by Pamela Gerard, shows the Class of 1997, graduating from Debra King School on 26th Street.

## Kids' Picks

### A Preschool Fair To Remember

By Michele Lynn

Only yesterday, it seems, you were 18 years old and trying to decide which college to attend. Now here you are trying to pick out one preschool from among dozens for your toddler to attend.

The process can be daunting, which is why you may want to check out the Sixth Annual Preschool Preview Night, to be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. (The building is located near the park entrance at Ninth and Lincoln avenues.)

The free event will offer parents one-stop shopping for information and literature on more than 70 San Francisco preschools. Wind in the Willows, Timothy Mouse Preschool, and Children's Day School are among the Noe Valley schools expected to be on hand.

Preschool Preview Night is hosted by *San Francisco-Peninsula Parent Magazine* and Parents Place, a family resource center directed by Castro Street resident Laurel Kloomok. The Gap clothing store also helps put on the event.

Kloomok calls the evening "a fantastic

and festive event. Each booth is decorated better than the other," she says. And the various concessions will have lots of candy and balloons and other freebies.

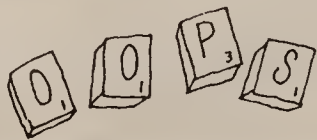
Representatives from the San Francisco Public Library, Parent Advocates for Youth, and the California Health and Disability Prevention program will be there, along with a bevy of child-centered businesses, such as nanny services, play programs, and health food purveyors.

The schools will be organized by zip code, so parents who have a certain neighborhood in mind can narrow their search. They can wander among the booths, collect pictures and brochures, and chat with members of the schools' staff, usually the preschool director or head teacher. At 7:30 p.m., they can hear a talk on "How to Choose a Preschool," given by school expert Lee Ann Slaton.

All in all, it should be a "great chance for parents to match who their child is with the preschool that will best meet the child's needs," says Kloomok.

For information, contact Preview Night coordinator Dana Katz at 563-0335. ☐

*If you know about an event, program, or activity for children that you would like to see featured in Kids' Picks, send a note to Kids' Picks, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include a telephone number.*



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**Steering children around** sidewalk dog dirt is all in a day's walk for Noe parents. At least the land mines are easier to spot here than in our grassy parks.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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# MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

Lily Elizabeth Margaret Stevens  
Tom James Ralph Stevens

Though now several pounds lighter and a tiny bit shorter, Lily Elizabeth Margaret Stevens will always be "big sister" to Tom James Ralph Stevens. After all, her arrival — at 2:36 p.m. on March 8, 1996 — preceded her brother's by a full 15 minutes.

The twins' father, Mark Stevens, was on hand at Stanford Hospital (dressed in scrubs and "looking a bit like George Clooney," claims Dad) to welcome both Lily, who tipped the scales at 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and Tom, who followed at 2:51 p.m., weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces.

Though mom Lesley Stevens gasped when the doctor said, "There isn't a third one in there, is there?", she now says she is delighted "to have twins, especially a boy and a girl.

"Everyone's covered by all the names, so you can please everybody all at once," Lesley points out. (Tom is named after his great-grandfather, and the middle names of both siblings come from family members on each side.) "And we like the sound of the initials. 'TJR' sounds like he could play cricket for England."

Sports is a distinct possibility for Tom. At 21 months, he is already adept at dribbling and kicking around the soccer ball with Dad. "Tom's very happy and smiley, and fairly energetic," says Mark. "Lily's a bit more sensitive. They *do* tend to follow gender stereotypes."

"Lily used to be a real drama queen when she was younger," agrees Lesley. "We'd say, 'She's going to be an actress when she grows older.' But she's calmed down a bit. She loves soft toys and dolls, and she loves to dress up. She's mad for shoes, and she clomps around in mine.

"Tom loves trucks and cars, he's more active," she continues. "And he has tantrums that come and go, whereas Lily's more of a constant. But they both have quiet spells, where they're just sitting looking at the books very quietly, and then you think, Oh, they *are* angels."

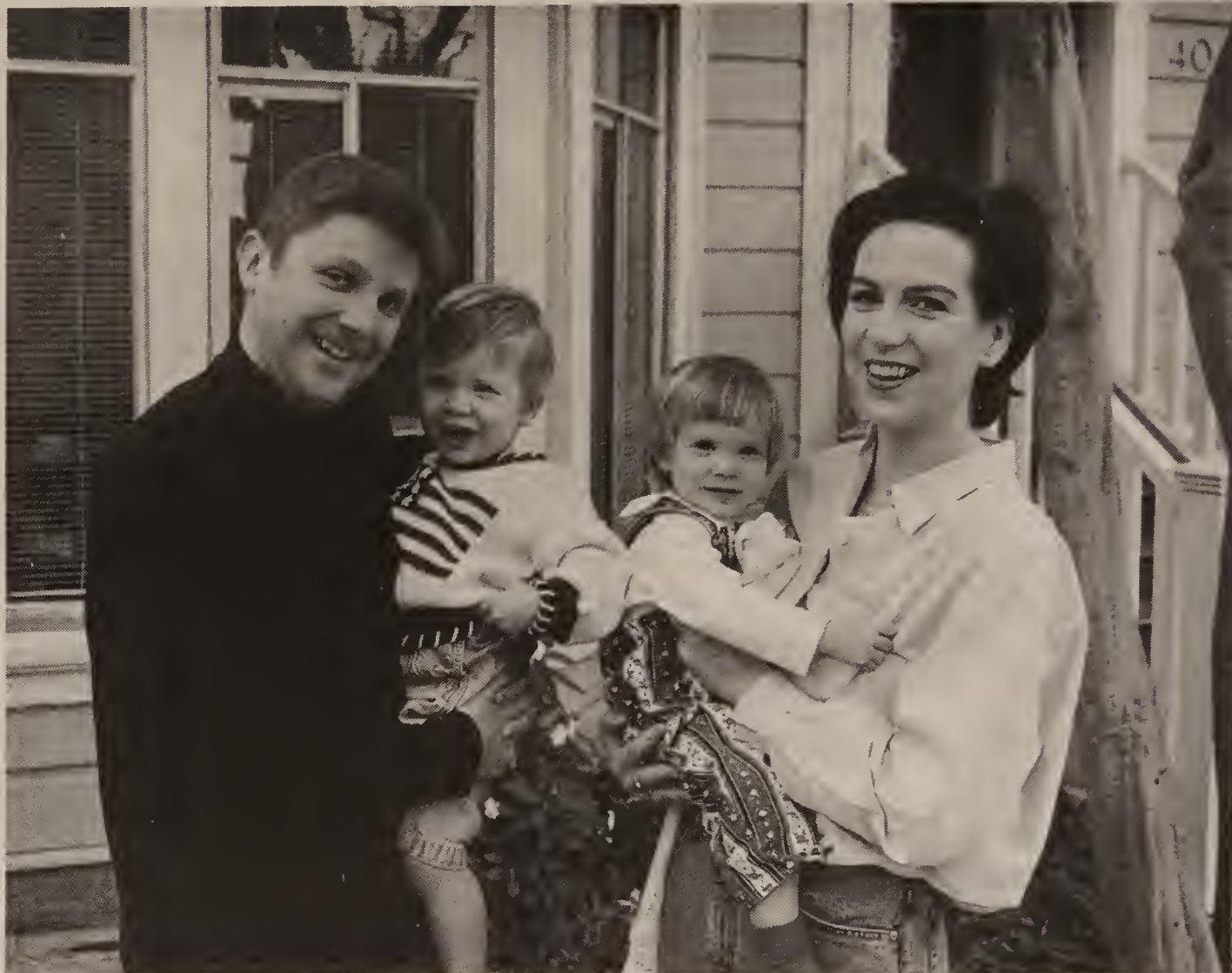
Lesley, a self-described "stay-at-home" mom, and Mark, who works as a business strategy consultant, are both 28 and citizens of Great Britain. They met while attending Cambridge University in 1988. The couple got married in 1994, just one week before they moved to the States so Mark could pursue an MBA at Stanford University.

The Stevens took up residence on 26th Street a year and a half ago. And folks in Noe Valley have been doing double-takes ever since.

"When we first moved to Noe Valley, the twins were 5 or 6 months old and really tiny," Lesley says. "One day I was about to cross the street with them, and I heard this woman shout from a car, 'Twins!!'"

The family also discovered that a simple stroll down 24th Street could be an all-day excursion. Mark recalls, "We had a big double stroller and we'd be walking down the street, and it would take us half an hour to get 20 yards because we'd get stopped by people asking things like, 'Are they twins?' and 'How heavy are they?' We almost had a newsletter printed up with the salient details!"

The barrage of questions brings out Lesley's wit, too. "People sometimes ask, 'Are they identical?' and I'll say, 'No, they're a boy and a girl.' But people will still say, 'Yes, I know they are.' And I'll say, 'No, they're a boy and a girl, there's a *crucial* difference.'"



Brits Mark and Lesley Stevens had a ball with twins Tom and Lily during their year-and-a-half sojourn in Noe Valley.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

Strangers often hear Lesley's accent and presume she is the English nanny. "A lot of people ask if they are both mine," she laughs.

Although she doesn't dress them alike, there's no mistaking that Tom and Lily are brother and sister. Both have blond hair and blue eyes. One minor distinction: Tom sports a sprinkling of freckles across his nose.

"But when one's in the stroller and one's in the backpack, it's not always so easy to tell they're twins," Lesley admits. "People will say, 'Gosh, they're awfully close in age, aren't they?', and I'll say 'Yes, minutes.' I don't know what people do who have triplets and quads. They must never go out!" she says with mock exasperation.

Lily and Tom attend a music class at Natural Resources, where, says Mom, "they like to make music and bang things and sing." And both children are regulars at the Kids' Gym at Upper Noe Recreation Center. Lesley points out that the twins get along well with others, although their personalities differ somewhat.

"In some ways, although Tom is more boisterous, Lily is more sociable," she says. "When we go to the park, she'll go up to people and make friends, whereas Tom will stick close to me."

Every evening, the twins have their "mad half-hour" at home, running up and down the hallway with their push-along toys. "They make a terrible racket, but it tires them out before bed and I don't complain," Lesley says. "They're affectionate with each other, and I think they appreciate each other more now that they're older and can play together. On the whole, they get along really well. They make each other laugh."

Mark treasures the greeting he receives at the end of the day. "There's nothing quite like the welcome I get," he says. "If I've had a really bad day at work, I'll open the front door and they come down the hall saying, 'Daddy! Daddy!' It puts things in perspective."

"Sometimes it's the little things that make it all worthwhile," Lesley reflects, noting that impromptu family games can be the most fun. "We always manage to have one good belly laugh during the day," she says. "The other day we were having a bit of a wrestle, all three of us.

And Tom suddenly put his mouth on my arm and blew a raspberry. It was just so funny, and once he got a huge reaction from me, he did it again and again. Sometimes they'll sit on a blanket, and I'll pull them up and down the hall. They think that's hilarious!"

You Voice readers are no doubt eager to catch a glimpse of these antics on the sidewalks of Noe Valley. But unfortunately for the neighborhood, the Stevens family moved back to London on Dec. 28. "We wanted to do it before they started school," Lesley explained. "They are the first grandchildren on both sides, so they're rather popular there."

"We'll miss Noe Valley," Mark said, "but you can only take so much nice weather, good food, and nice people."

He and Lesley said they planned to stay

abreast of all the neighborhood happenings, however, with a subscription to the *Noe Valley Voice*. And a return visit will definitely be in their future.

"When they're quite a bit older," Lesley said, "we'd like to come back and do the grand tour — show Tom and Lily where they were born." □

**More Mouths to Feed** wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd also appreciate a phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait—no charge.



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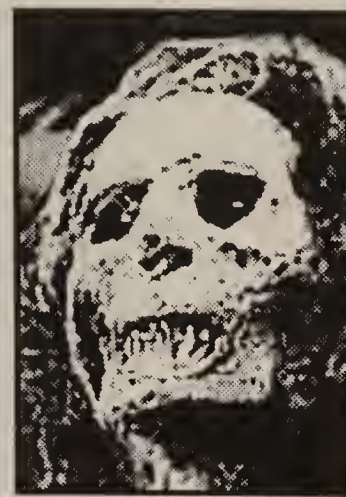
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Photo by Ed Buryn

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## MORE BOOKS to READ

### The Joy of Reading

**H**ere is a list of new books selected by head librarian Roberta Greifer and children's librarian Carol Small of the Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library. The library is hidden among the Victorians in the block of Jersey between Castro and Diamond streets. In addition to books—including special women's and children's collections—the branch has videos, CDs, Internet access, a deck and a garden, and an archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Questions? Call 695-5095.

#### Adult Fiction

◆ Set in "Gold Rush" San Francisco, *Daughter of Joy*, by Jo Ann Levy, is a historical novel that portrays Ah Toy, a financially successful Asian woman, who challenges the American judicial system.

◆ A novel about love, longing, and emptiness, *Eve's Apple*, by Jonathan Rosen, depicts a woman with an eating disorder and the man who adores her.

◆ In *Hotel Sarajevo*, by Jack Kersh, a group of teenage Bosnian war orphans live as a family in an abandoned hotel.

◆ *Slippage*, by Harlan Ellison, a master of horror and suspense, contains his latest short stories and novella.

◆ In *Walking Back the Cat*, a literary spy thriller by Robert Littell, a KGB agent located near an Apache reservation, is given assassination orders.

#### Adult Nonfiction

◆ *The Best American Essays 1997*, edited by Ian Frazier, contains prize-winning works by twenty-four writers, among them Gay Talese, Susan Sontag, and Richard Ford.

◆ The recently revised edition of Irma Rombauer's classic *Joy of Cooking* contains new chapters on grains, beans, pasta, and desserts.

◆ A poetry collection by the author of *Mistress of Spices*, *Leaving Yuba City*, by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, explores the Indian immigrant experience in the United States.

◆ Written at the height of his commitment to Buddhism, *Some of the Dharma*, by Jack Kerouac, contains poems, journal entries, prayers, and meditations.

#### Children's Fiction

◆ One rainy night, a small white dog and a loving family happily find each other in *McDuff Moves In*, by Rosemary Wells. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ Two brothers, one collecting puddle designs and the other preferring to collect "real things," have a good time together in Elisa Klevens' *The Puddle Pail*. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ "Picture Clues," "Rebuses," and "Mini-Books" are some of the sections in a new anthology, *Bug in a Rug: Reading Fun for Just-Beginners*, by Joanna Cole and Stephanie Calmenson. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ In *Spaceman*, by Jane Cutler, Gary has many problems in fifth grade, but then his situation improves a great deal when he goes to a school geared toward children with different learning styles. *Ages 9 and up.*

◆ A surprising interaction between a dog and a much-feared man leaves the reader with some hope at the end of *Shiloh Season*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. *Ages 9 and up.*

◆ Buck is forced to see a very painful social reality as he tries to come to the aid of his friend in *Dangerous Skies*, by Suzanne Fisher Staples. *Ages 10 and up.*

#### Children's Nonfiction

◆ In *Common Ground*, Molly Bang encourages us to consider the future when we make decisions about how to interact with our home, planet Earth. *Ages 5 to 8.*

◆ An 11-year-old boy describes his life with his mother and her partner in *Zack's Story: Growing Up with Same-Sex Parents*, by Keith Elliot Greenberg. *Ages 6 and up.*

#### Movies, Stories, and Lapsits

◆ The library screens *films* for children ages 3 to 5 on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 10 and 11 a.m.

◆ *Preschool story time* for kids 3 to 5 is 10 a.m. on Tuesdays Feb. 3, 10, and 24.

◆ Babies and toddlers and their parents are invited for songs and stories at the Wednesday *lapsits* Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25, at 7 p.m.

### Songs and Music Games from Around the World

Kids ages 3 to 5 are invited to join Bonnie Lockhart for a morning of musical fun at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 10 and 11 a.m.

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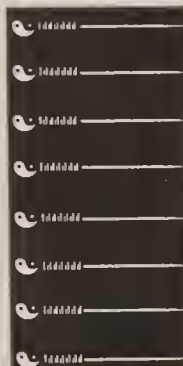
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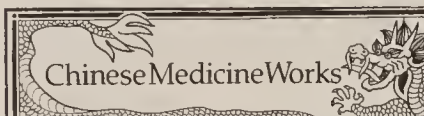


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Meetings: First Thursday of month, Noe  
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

### Castro Area Planning + Action

Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
E-mail: capa@home4us.org  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,  
Eureka Valley Recreation Center,  
100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of the month,  
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

### Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings  
semi-annually. Call for details.

### Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,  
Keith Eickman, 282-8988,  
Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or  
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe  
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

### Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3428  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July,  
August, and December), Eureka Valley  
Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183  
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe  
Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

### Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Helen Crowell, 821-1086  
Mailing Address: 4250 26th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,  
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

### La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Susan Condon, 282-7816  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460566,  
San Francisco, CA 94146-0566  
Meetings: Third Thursday of month, Upper  
Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 12:15 p.m.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Barbara Russell, v.p., 285-4782;  
John Barbey, pres., 695-0990;  
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: At least quarterly. Call for details.

### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087  
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, Noe  
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, pres., 641-8692  
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick,  
Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574,  
San Francisco, CA 94114-6003  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month,  
Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

### Noe Valley Senior Center

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crafts, Wed. & Fri, 10:30 a.m.  
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

### Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Monday of month,  
St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

### Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989  
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe  
Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. Call for specifics.

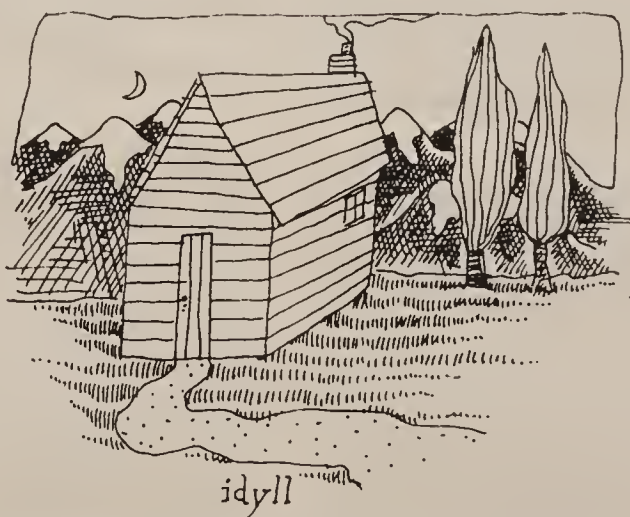


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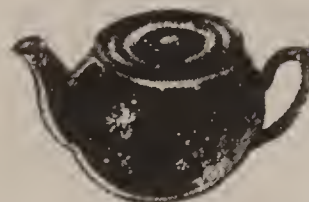
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**Licensed Hair Stylist** will cut/color/highlight your hair at affordable price. Your home or mine. Other cosmetic services, including expert makeup application, available upon request. Formerly employed at DiPietro-Todd. Call Laura at (415) 647-8478 or voice mail, (415) 267-3269.

**Housecleaner.** Home and office. Experienced, great references. Own car. Dolores, 665-4353.

**I'll Babysit Your Building.** Responsible adult with professional managerial and cleaning experience seeks San Francisco one-bedroom apartment in smallish building. I'll collect rents, clean up, supervise/service people, change light bulbs, etc., for reasonable rent credit. Environmentally conscientious, substance-free, great references. Call Dee, 626-1376.

**Violin Lessons in Noe Valley.** All levels and ages. Experienced, friendly, and easygoing teacher. Master's degree from Eastman School of Music. Call Kayo at (415) 643-1435.

**Housecleaning.** For home, apartment, and offices. Excellent references. Contact Nelma, (650) 878-3238. Daly City.

**Leaving in July?** Responsible couple in their 50s wants to spend July in Noe near family. Couple seeks comfortable home/flat with parking. Molly, (415) 824-8274.

**Gardening and/or Massage.** Two skills, two hands for earth/body, with strength/sensitivity. Kweku, 285-3439.

**Egyptian Waxing.** Also babysitting and housecleaning. North African woman. Call Samia at 647-6087. English-speaking.

**Save This Ad.** Housecleaning. Housesitting. Reliable man. Call David, (415) 824-1136. Save, Save, Save This Ad.

**Childcare Offered.** Wanted: one newborn to love. Mature, experienced, kind. Nonsmoker, own car. Local references. 731-8145.

**Women's Writing Classes.** Want to write but find it difficult to get started and keep going? Already writing but need a group for feedback and support? My classes provide the structure to write more and a community where you can share your writing. All types of writing; all levels of experience welcome. Ten-week series starting soon. Linda Elkin/Writing Circles for Women. (415) 337-7207.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references. Professional, reasonably priced. Offering service seven days a week. For more details call (415) 255-8506, Rô.

**Good Carpentry/Handyman.** Services from builder with over 20 years professional experience. Local. Call Marcus at 647-6087.

**Massage Therapy for Women.** Stress reduction and relief from neck and back tension. Janine, LMT. Experienced. 468-5201.

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stories are there, too. It's  
[www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).



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## CLASS ADS

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**Virtual Franchise Available.** Preventative Health Care products. 1-888-224-6525.

**Refrigerator.** Kenmore. Excellent condition. \$150. 641-6199.

**Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Group** in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age (40s to 60s), supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders in training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, LCSW. 641-4553.

**Massage Office Available** part-time. Nurturing environment, Noe Valley location. Margaret, (415) 550-8940.

**Looking for a Place to Live in San Francisco?** Rent Tech can provide lists of vacant apartments and rooms in all areas of the city! Call us at (415) 863-7368 for more information. Sign up today on the web or in our office. List your vacancy free. 863-RENT or [www.renttech.com](http://www.renttech.com). Fee/guarantee.

**Do You Need Housecleaning?** We'll do it! Call Marco and Sara, (415) 585-7280. References available. \$12 per hour.



**Group Therapy for Women** with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have openings in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group meets Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$30 per week. For further information, call Dr. Pat Sax, (415) 661-7158.

**Need Housework?** Thirteen years cleaning in Noe Valley; \$12/hour. Call Stephanie, 282-3176.

**"Vitamin-Mania."** A prominent physician speaks out. Get "the whole truth." Free audio tape. 1-888-224-6525.

**Garage for Rent.** Sanchez near Jersey Street. \$175/month. 648-8614.

**Garage/Storefront/Workspace Wanted** by artist/designer for studio use. Responsible, excellent references. 821-7738.

**Why Clean? Allow Me to Do It!** Save time and money with a detail-oriented professional. Cleaning extraordinaire at your service. Mike, 928-3199.

**Inspiring and Creative Piano Lessons** with Willow Williamson, B.A. in music from Mills College. Lessons include composition, improvisation, theory, ear training, and technique. Call 647-6614.

**Catalyst for Personal and Spiritual Growth.** Painful emotions that go around and around in your mind without resolution prevent you from experiencing your full inner wisdom. Method: 1) Acknowledge the events that started the pain and explore why and how the events occurred; 2) Relive the anger and sadness you felt. Results: Understanding the background of your painful emotions will give you space for healthy thinking so you can be on your way to triumphantly solving your problems. This method worked for me. I am direct, interactive, and a compassionate listener. My clients "graduate" after very few sessions. Fee: \$100 for a full hour. Sliding scale available. Initial half-hour phone consultation is free. Emily Shihadeh, M.S. counseling. (415) 282-5662.

**Enhance Self-Love.** The work is to build a creative and spiritual life on a foundation of self-worth. Experienced therapist, 19 years with individuals and couples. Noe Valley office. Elliott Isenberg, Ph.D. Licensed psychologist. 695-0499.

**Therapy Office for Rent.** Large office available in five-office suite. \$700/month, utilities included. Call 648-8781.

**Home and Office Cleaning** available. Great references, experience. Reasonably priced. For more details call Rodrigo, (415) 522-0412.

**Lighten Your Load.** Lose weight like magic. It's easy, safe, healthy, and fun! You'll watch the pounds and fat melt away. Eat your favorite foods, too! People around the world are now discovering this amazing program. Get the weight-loss results you've dreamed of. All natural. Money-back guarantee. Ask about three ways to get paid for losing weight. You've tried the rest, now it's time for the best! Free samples and consultation. Call Lois, (415) 337-1107.

**Office Space Sought** by psychotherapist (MFCC) in Noe Valley, the Castro, Upper Market, or Hayes Valley. Please contact Michael at 546-7779.

**Too Many Papers? Too Little Time?** Call Margo Rila, 861-4551, home and office organizer. Reasonable rates. References.

**Motherhood/Fatherhood—Is It for Me?** Are you considering parenting? Are you confused or ambivalent? Indecision can be immobilizing. Explore the many feelings associated with this decision in a safe and non-judgmental environment. Separate workshops for both women and men. Call for brochure/schedule. Denise Carlini, MFCC, 752-9165. Ann Davidman, MFCC, 752-5392.

**Housecleaner.** Home and office. Experienced. Great references. Own car. Dolores, 665-4353.

**A Very Special Bodyworker in Noe Valley.** Ann McGinnis has been serving Noe Valley since 1984 with her intuitive clarity and artful, healing touch. With 23 years on a path of healing and self-awareness, she is able to offer an extensive repertoire for working with the body—from deeply relaxing massage to working with chronic pain and issues around incest and abuse. Her sessions are contexts where you can deeply rest and participate with your own unique creative body wisdom. Ann teaches throughout the Bay Area and is on the faculty of Alive & Well! Institute of Conscious Bodywork. Introductory session, \$45 (\$10 discount). 454\*3451.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references. Professional. Reasonable price, offering services seven days a week. For more details call (415) 643-0894, Nadir.

**Psychotherapy Offices Available,** 24th Street San Francisco office, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. North Berkeley office Tuesday–Thursday. Christa, (510) 528-9867.

**Baby Items for Sale.** Crib (Simmons, whitewash), cradle, infant car seat (Century), high chair, Exersaucer, toys, more! (415) 821-7279.

**Experienced Housecleaner** with local references. Thorough work done to your specifications. Call 824-0894.

**Gardening.** Professional gardener will beautify your environment. Maintenance, cleanup, design and installation, consultation, veggies, and children's gardens. Organic. Reasonable rates. 821-6359.

**Personal Assistant.** I am available to help you with errands, yard work, making healthy gourmet meals, computer work, pet care, and more. (415) 648-4919, Anahid.

**Desperately Seeking Sanity?** Affordable depth-oriented psychotherapy with a seasoned therapist who uses compassion, insight, humor, and good old-fashioned common sense to address a broad range of personal difficulties, with a specialty in chronic depression and relationship issues. Sliding scale. Elisabeth Feldman, MFCC (MFC#29510). (415) 273-5833.

**Rosen Method Bodywork.** Practitioner in Noe Valley. For information or to schedule an appointment, please call Jane Tatum, 643-0253.

**Office Space for Rent** in chiropractic clinic. Looking for an acupuncturist, homeopath, massage therapist, bodyworker, etc., to rent space in beautiful office with great location near Dolores Park. Reasonable rent. Call 626-7515.

**Home Cleaning.** Excellent references. Professional, reasonable price. For more details call (415) 563-6782. Marciene Alcantara.

**Plan Now for a Lovely Spring Garden.** Trees, shrubs, hedges. Professional arborist, neighborhood resident. Twenty years experience. Free estimates, reasonable rates. 826-6160; 566-1920. E-mail: [Squiben@aol.com](mailto:Squiben@aol.com).

**Mr. Morgenstern Hauls All,** reasonable or free in exchange for goods. What have you? 563-5354 or 560-3637.

**24th Street Psychotherapy Office** available Mondays, part-time Thursdays and Fridays. Sand tray also available. 282-5242.

**Housecleaner.** Home and office. Experienced, great references, own car. Elli, 661-5941.

**Cleaning Services.** Houses, apartments, studios. Excellent references. Call Denise for estimate. (510) 236-2901.

**Rare Rustic Willowbark Twig Couch.** Custom overstuffed pillows have playful country print. Excellent condition. \$300. 864-3198.

**Great Winter Skiing!** Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Ski Squaw, Alpine, Diamond Peak, Heavenly. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna room, living room with fireplace, two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call early for ski season. (415) 282-7955; 998-7955.

**Need Help with Legal Forms?** We prepare divorce/bankruptcy/other legal forms. (415) 585-9105.

**Sunny Mexico!** Five-star beautiful Terrasol Condos beach resort, Cabo San Lucas. Step from deck to the sand! Two bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, jacuzzi, pools, Lovers Beach, great fishing, diving. (415) 282-7955; 998-7955.

**Furniture Stripped and Refinished.** Excellent work, e.g., three-drawer dresser with mirror, \$150 with pickup. One-Eyed Jacks, 621-4390.

**Acupressure Massage for Your Health.** Combining Jin Shin Do, Amma, and Shiatsu acupressure with Cranial-Sacral and Tui-Na for optimal healing and balance. Offering relief from headaches, sinus and lung congestion, low energy, stiffness and pain, emotional blocks, women's health issues, and more. Margaret Medeiros, C.M.T., 550-8940, Noe Valley office.

**Guitar Lessons.** Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244.

**Pet Sitting, Dog Walks, Cat Talks.** Noe Valley resident, home for the holidays. Experienced; local references; reasonable rates. Look after mail, garbage, plants, etc. Call Terry, 821-9234.

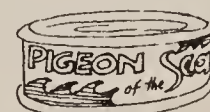
**Remodeling Services** by Mystery Carpentry, license #731187. Home repairs and upgrades. General handyman work. Reasonable rates, good references. Call Dan, 242-9042.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references, professional, reasonable price. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call for Margarida. (415) 255-0636.

**Harmonica Lessons.** Taught by professional. All styles. Sliding scale. Beginners to advanced welcome. 641-4860.

**Free Consultation!** Worn out? Sagging? Wrinkled? Try my complimentary, basic easy skin care. Your home or mine. Elsie, (415) 550-7475.

**Sunny 24th Street Psychotherapy Office.** Available Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. North Berkeley psychotherapy office available Tuesdays and Thursdays. Christa, (510) 528-9867.



**Occasional Work Sought.** Semi-retired proofreader (knowledge of French and Spanish); former legal secretary (Word Perfect 5.1); capable, reliable; seeks occasional work (proofreading, clerical, reading aloud, other) to supplement part-time job and small pension. S.F. only. Anne, (415) 522-2980.

**Tax Preparation and Consulting.** My 10-year-old practice consists largely of self-employed individuals, many of whom are artists or musicians. I also specialize in helping non-filers, audit representation, offers-in-compromise, and prebankruptcy tax planning. Call Alan Steger, E.A., (415) 387-3057.

**Furniture Restoration.** Complete antique and modern furniture restoration. Careful European craftsmanship. Expert refinishing. Custom upholstery. Caning. Veneering. Quality repairing. Competitive prices. Impressive portfolio and references. Free estimate, pickup, and delivery. Call Boris, (415) 587-3416.

### Voice Mail

THE VOICE welcomes letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send email to [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). Please include your name, address, and phone number, so we can contact you if we have questions. Another way to reach us is via our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com). There you'll find a history of the paper, the Class Ad listings, and select stories from current and past issues. Hope to hear from you soon.

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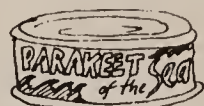


**Mac Computer? Need Help?** I can help you clean up your computer, teach you how to get online, send e-mail, teach you and your children how to surf the web, etc. I am the tech coordinator at a private elementary school. Evenings and weekends in your home. 641-7062.

**Environmentally Safe Housecleaning.** Weekly or biweekly. Free estimates. 661-9481.

**Relationship Counseling.** For enhancing relationships or creating life after a separation. Long or short-term work. Individuals or couples. Sliding scale available. Linda-Sue Edwards, M.F.C.C. (license #21917). 931-1928.

**Alexander Technique Lessons.** House calls: Home/office on-site services with Kathryn Zimmerman. 1-800-283-3455.



**Stereo Repair:** Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening/weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751.

**Free Introductory Meditation Class,** Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Two-hour psychic readings by appointment, \$35. Psychic Horizons at 972 Valencia St. (near 21st). (415) 346-7906.

**Looking for a 12-Year-Experienced,** reliable, bonded housecleaner? Stop your search! Call KJ now at (415) 285-3014.

**Piano for Children.** Classical piano and music theory instruction offered. Patient, experienced Noe Valley teacher. Elva Granat, 285-5769.

**Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley.** Experience the Victorian charm of old San Francisco in designer's beautiful, spacious, three-room suite with private entrance. Delicious fare, reasonable rates, two blocks to 24th Street. "A Victorian Legacy." Call Patricia, 648-8879.

**Counseling/Psychotherapy.** Individual, couples, family, adolescent, pets. Mission District office. Will negotiate fee. Lower for cash. Confidential. Sally Levy, M.F.C.C. CA #MFC29828. (415) 648-8974.

**Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley.** Parents or friends coming and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings, private patio. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church. Oliver House, 695-0700.

**Pet Care.** Does Rover need a pet sitter? Exercise? Training? A ride to the vet? Positively Pets can help! Expert care for all pets. Bonded. References. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

**Schlepper Bros. Hauling.** Fast, fair, honest, reliable, and yogic (Food Not Bombs activists). Tom, 824-4214.

**Cleaninghouse.** Home, office, apartment, and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513.

**Licensed Painting.** Small and large jobs. Interior and exterior. Free consultation and estimate. Also expert plaster and drywall repairs. Cracks and water damage fixed. License 497-214. References. Please call Ed at 995-4666.

**Mendocino Weekend Getaway.** New, one-bedroom cottage, \$150. Decks, fireplace. Close to village, private. 826-7877.

**Event Specialists.** Dancing Ladies Productions can do it all from birthdays to weddings. The more unique to the most outrageous brings more fun for all. 282-2782.

**Building Owners!** Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building? Get the expert input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981, 25 years of experience. Reasonable. Free initial consultation.

**Clean & Natural:** Housecleaning. Quality work. Bonded. Free estimate: (415) 642-6280.

**Buy Direct Breeders.** Young and tame parakeets and cockatiels. (650) 697-3682.

## CLAS ADS

**Furniture Wanted.** I need old dressers, tables, desks, etc. Will repair and/or refinish if necessary. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

**Carpentry, Ceramic Tile, drywall, decks, finish carpentry, hardwood floor refinishing, painting.** Reasonable prices, good references, free estimates. Call Brad, 627-4065.

**Handyman:** Repairs, build household and yard projects. References, reasonable rates. Harry Irving, 986-2654.

**Walkin Waggin Pet and Plant Care** by Carla. Located in Noe Valley. Love and attention, walks, play or sitting. Health care, feeding, and hygiene. Services for all animals (fish and horses too). Responsible, mature, fun, and smart. Animal caretaker/owner with 25 years experience. 648-3651.

**Paint for Le \$\$.** Interior/exterior. Expert crack repair, attention to detail. Free color consultation. We give you the very best for le \$\$! Excellent references. Call Kacey, 206-0646.

**Considering Psychotherapy?** A time of difficulty can become a time of growth—if you reach out and use the help and tools that are available. I'm an experienced, licensed therapist who offers a responsive, down-to-earth counseling approach for individuals and couples of all lifestyles. Both short- and long-term counseling are available at my Noe Valley office. Call Judith Rosen, Ph.D., M.F.C.C. (MFC #18035) at 285-0262.

**Yoga in Noe Valley.** Classes and private lessons. Also, yoga therapy for whatever ails you! New Dawn Yoga Therapy, (415) 285-1831.

**Need an Extra Bedroom/Bath** for visiting relatives or friends? Rent ours. No frills. Low cost. 282-2550.

**Living Tai Chi Chuan** of Noe Valley. Unique approach for holistic balance. Beginners Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. \$5 introduction. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Chris Sequeira, 24 years experience. (650) 756-6857, (415) 773-8185.

**Piano Lessons in Noe Valley:** Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical, or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Barnett, 648-1007.

**Just Plain Good Therapy.** Brief counseling, crisis help, or in-depth work offered to individuals and couples of "all sexual persuasions" by well-aged, intuitive, perceptive, and highly skilled counselor who has seen, heard, and experienced a broad range of life's challenges. Upper Glen Park, easy parking. Jeanne Adleman, M.A. 585-0666.

**New Improved Noe's Nest Bed and Breakfast.** Unit A: private entrance, private bath, kitchenette, queen bed. Cute and cozy. Unit B: view, private bath, deck, fireplace, hot tub, queen bed. Unit C: ultra-view, private bath, steam room, parlor, king bed, fireplace, and deck. All with cable and VCR. Masseuse and day care available. Contact Sheila, 821-0751.

**Recover Lost Fortunes.** Manual shows you how. \$20 billion in lost fortunes goes unclaimed! Free information from local author. Mazel Publishing, P.O. Box 460040, San Francisco, CA 94146-0040.

**Phil's Window Cleaning Service.** Reliable/courteous. Free estimates for residential/commercial. 668-8310.

**Books Bought.** I come to you. Call L.J., 469-9338 (46-year San Francisco resident).

**Superlative Word Processing.** Experienced professional. B.A. English, M.S.W. Understandable advice. Business, medical, academic, legal, resumes, manuscripts. Expert editing. Fax machine. Laser printing. Good rates. Call anytime. 824-7736.

**Transform Your Jungle** into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

**Natural/Non-Toxic Housecleaning.** Clean and Green will get your home spotless! Weekly, bi-weekly, and special occasions. Thorough, dependable, references. Janet, 281-9622.

**Rental Short-Term:** Noe Valley view location; two guest suites with furnished living/bedroom areas, private baths, private phone lines, private entrances; shared kitchen/laundry; ideal for visiting family/friends, business travelers; weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

**Vacation Room Rental:** Upper Noe Valley—safe, clean, private, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. 821-4890.

**Gourmet Vegetarian Cuisine** delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Treat yourself right! Gift certificates available. For a monthly menu call Jane, 826-2133.

**Bed and Breakfast,** quaint garden suite, spacious, front room, full kitchen, big bedroom and office area, laundry room, modern bathroom, ornamental gas fireplace, arched window view of garden with flowers, ground level, separate entrance, quiet, near 26th and Sanchez, close to shopping and transportation, privacy. Additional rooms available. Call (415) 206-0202.

**Non-Toxic Housecleaning.** It's healthy, effective, and affordable. I'm thorough, reliable, and honest. Local references. Russell, 431-4975.

**Word Processing** (expertise: legal). Tape transcription, editing, mailings, repetitive letters, resumes, letter composition, complaint letters. Phone-in dictation system. Dena Reiner, (415) 821-4661.

**Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast.** Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. (415) 648-2515.

**One-Eyed Jacks.** We buy out or conduct on-premises estate sales. Will also buy single items, i.e., period furniture from 1960s back (some newer) and collectibles, oriental rugs, art, jewelry, lamps, tools, garden statuary and pottery, bric-a-brac, and more. Call or visit us at 1645 Market St. 621-4390 and 585-1901, Jim.

**Word Processing:** Manuscripts, theses, dissertations, tape transcription, editing. Joanne, 431-0603.

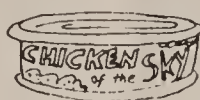
**Gardening Service:** Includes consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance. 626-1258.

**Tax Preparation** for individuals, financial services for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled Agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. \$10 discount with this ad. 415-695-1819. Gretchen Beck, E.A.

**Math Tutoring:** (415) 285-1831.

**Flute Lessons.** Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. Carla, (415) 648-3651.

**Relationship Counseling.** Reduce conflicts and improve communication and intimacy with relationship counseling, individuals, couples, and families. Dennis Thatcher, M.S., M.F.C.C. license #MFC25186. (415) 995-2916.



**Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans.** Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream/forest; fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, koi pond; \$250/two-night weekend, \$275/three-night weekend, \$75/night mid-week with two-night minimum; \$500/week; \$1,500/month. Ten percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

**CEF Contractors.** License #706109. Residential remodel and termite repairs. Carpentry, tile, drywall and plaster, plumbing, electrical, paint. Excellent references including Noe Valley locality. Call Curt, (510) 654-4963.

**Lynda the Gardener.** Complete landscape service. Experienced and skilled professional craftspeople. Redwood fences, decks, and arbors. Brick, stone, concrete: walls, walks, and patios. Irrigation, lawns, planting, expert pruning, and maintenance. Let us install your dream garden. Serving Noe Valley since 1986. Free estimate. Referrals. License #543983. Lynda, 759-1335.

**Housecleaner Available** for homes, apartments, and offices. Excellent references. Rosane, at (415) 885-2215.

### How to Place a Class Ad

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by 30¢ a word, and enclose a check or money order for the full amount. Note that phone numbers, including area code, count as one word.

Mail the ad and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the 15th of the month before the month you'd like to advertise in. Even if the ad is a renewal from a prior issue, please send us the full text of your ad.

**Discount for Repeat Advertisers:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the March '98 issue, hitting the streets of Noe Valley on Wednesday, March 4. The deadline for Class Ads is Feb. 15. The address is *Noe Valley Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114*.

Sorry, but we are unable to accept Class Ad orders by phone or e-mail at this time. However, each month's Class Ads are also displayed on our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you. □

**A Cheap Way to Own a House!** Commissioned watercolors from \$150, plus tax. Specializing in houses, gardens, and views of San Francisco. Free consultation with no obligation. You'll see samples of my work, and we'll discuss your idea for a painting. Call Susan Sternau at 285-0696.

**HIV-AIDS?** Learn what a top HIV/AIDS specialist recommends to his patients. Free audio tape. (415) 627-4017.

**Cat & Plant Care** is providing TLC to cats and homes in Noe Valley and environs. If you're looking for a reliable individual with local references, call Anna-Kajs (A-K) for a cat chat, etc. 648-8132.

**Aspiring Novelist** with much nonfiction writing experience seeks four or five like-minded individuals to launch a fiction writers group in Noe Valley. Members/supporters will routinely share their work and invite feedback. Call 826-8567 or send e-mail to [ENGSTROM@A.CRL.COM](mailto:ENGSTROM@A.CRL.COM).

**Telephone wiring** and jacks for your home or business; 37 years of experience. Call Gene, 826-8419.

**Depth Psychotherapy.** Heal old wounds, past trauma and abuse. Explore and work through stuck places, fears and anxiety that keep you from having the relationships and life that you want. Peggy Handler, MFCC #32077. 695-0166.

**Words Wanted:** The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Come visit us at

[www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Each month the Class Ads and top news stories are posted on our web site for your enjoyment.

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Shop Talk

By Mazook

FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS for Out of Hand, the popular arts and crafts store on Castro near 24th, "were just great," reports store owner Karla Clement.

"Our Christmas sales were just great, and last year we were voted one of the 'Top 100 Retailers of American Craft' in a national poll of craftspeople by *Niche Magazine*," says Karla. The store features ceramics, jewelry, and crafts from about a dozen Bay Area artists.

But as many of you already know, Out of Hand will be closing its doors March 1. Why? "It's simple," says Karla, "retail burnout. I've been here for 11 years now, and let me tell you, running a small business these days is really difficult."

Karla also points out that the shop is on a month-to-month lease and the building

is currently for sale, so planning for the future had become nearly impossible.

Karla says she is going to "take some time off, regroup, and spend more hours teaching art as a volunteer at my 5-year-old's school."

But despite rumors to the contrary, another art store, Art Garden on Cesar Chavez off Church, is *not* closing. This shop also features classy arts and crafts by a lot of local people.

Owner Randall Thompson says he is merely having a "close-out" sale through the end of February. "I'm offering lots of art and crafts at 50 percent off."

While you're in the store, check out the Kilim rugs and pillows (from Turkey) and the Tansu furniture pieces made in Japan from the 1880s to around 1930.



THERE WAS MILD PANIC among the regular patrons of Lovejoy's Tea Room last month when the tiny refuge shut down for about a week.

The rather unique Lovejoy's, on Church Street near 24th, is known for its English-style "high tea," which is served all day (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.), along with the traditional scones, Devonshire clotted cream, and jam.

Tricia Hollenberg and her partner

Terri Harte have been operating the tea room since October for owners Mary Ann and Martin Spicknell, who had moved to Oregon. The two women were negotiating to buy the place.

"Negotiations broke down, and we weren't going any farther until it was resolved," said Tricia in mid-January.

As of press time, however, it appeared that talks had been renewed. Lovejoy's should be open under new owners by the time you read this.



IN RELATED ITEMS: The secondhand clothing store Allure, on Castro across the street from Out of Hand, will be closing by March "at the latest," according to the aforementioned Tricia Hollenberg.

Tricia has operated that store for the past three years and has obviously chosen to change her focus. What will replace Allure? No clue yet.

Also, the permanent departure of the Spicknells from the local scene has meant the closure of their M&M Antiques store on the corner of 23rd and Sanchez. That, in turn, has enabled Dirt Cheap Travel to move from its much smaller digs at 23rd and Vicksburg into M&M's old niche.

Dirt Cheap owner Michael McGlothlin says he is delighted about the move

because it almost doubles his space. (The travel agency had been at its original location since 1980.) What is a little strange for Michael is that "I used to live above the store on 23rd and Sanchez when I opened up my business, and now I am moving there again."

Five years ago Michael defected to Sebastopol, where he operates a branch office of Dirt Cheap Travel. His Dirt Cheap No. 1 should be open on Sanchez by day before yesterday.

The last item of store news is about the construction in the front area of Real Food Company on 24th Street. The store has just or is just about to close down for a day to install a brand new checkout area with new registers and better space management. This will no doubt make room for more real food.



A BULBOUS MUNI STORY: The Noe Valley Merchants Association's drive to create 80 new parking spaces in Downtown Noe Valley — by converting 15 Muni bus zones to pedestrian boarding "bulbs" and putting diagonal parking on side streets off 24th Street — has run into

*Continued on Next Page*

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Continued from Previous Page

a major roadblock.

Merchants President Robert Roddick received a letter from Muni chief Emilio Cruz in December. The letter started out by commending Roddick and the association for its many creative ideas to solve the parking crunch in Noe Valley. Then Cruz wrote: "However, bus bulbs cost approximately \$60,000 to \$100,000 each to construct, because of drainage considerations and the various utilities that have to be moved. We receive very limited amounts of money that can be used for bulbs, and it is unlikely that we would be able to devote between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000 to bulbs in Noe Valley alone, considering our other needs for bus bulbs and the other requests we have gotten."

Mr. Cruz continued: "Your other suggestion concerned creating angled parking on Castro and Noe streets. Muni has concerns about the implementation of angled parking along streets with Muni lines, and especially on streets with electric trolley coach service, such as Castro.... We have generally opposed the creation of angled parking on streets where we operate."

I guess it's back to the drawing board for those 1,200 Noe Valleons who signed a petition supporting the Merchants' proposals. Maybe we can raise the \$1.5 mil with some bake sales at our local schools.

☎ ☎ ☎

WHILE WE'RE TALKING MUNI, those new Breda streetcars that rumble and whine down Church Street causing houses to rattle and residents to shriek may be headed for the courts.

Rumor is that many folks along Church Street are going to file claims for nuisance and property damages from the cars' shaking and noise.

San Francisco attorney Steve Seiler says he now represents at least 10 people who live along Church Street and who plan to file such claims. He also represents 40 other people out on the Taraval line and has already filed a lawsuit in S.F. Superior Court on behalf of one resident.

According to Bill Trumbo, one of the Church Street claimants, "Every time one of these 41-ton \$2.5 million streetcars rumbles by on track that was built to support a trolley half its size and whines at 85 to 95 decibels, my house shakes and the noise fills the rooms.

"Things have gotten worse since Muni uses the J-Church line as the route for all other lines when going and returning to the car barn out by Balboa Park, so they pass by starting very early in the morning and then late at night.

"I've lived here since 1978 and remember the days when only the PCC cars were used. They ran quiet as a mouse, and even the bigger Boeing cars were quiet."

How many \$1.5 million chunks do you think Muni will spend on buying 60 more Breda cars, scheduled to arrive from Italy in the coming years? Yikes!

☎ ☎ ☎

DOWNTOWN NOE VALLEY newsracks will soon be substantially upgraded, says Dan Brugmann, newsrack program manager for the San Francisco Department of Public Works.

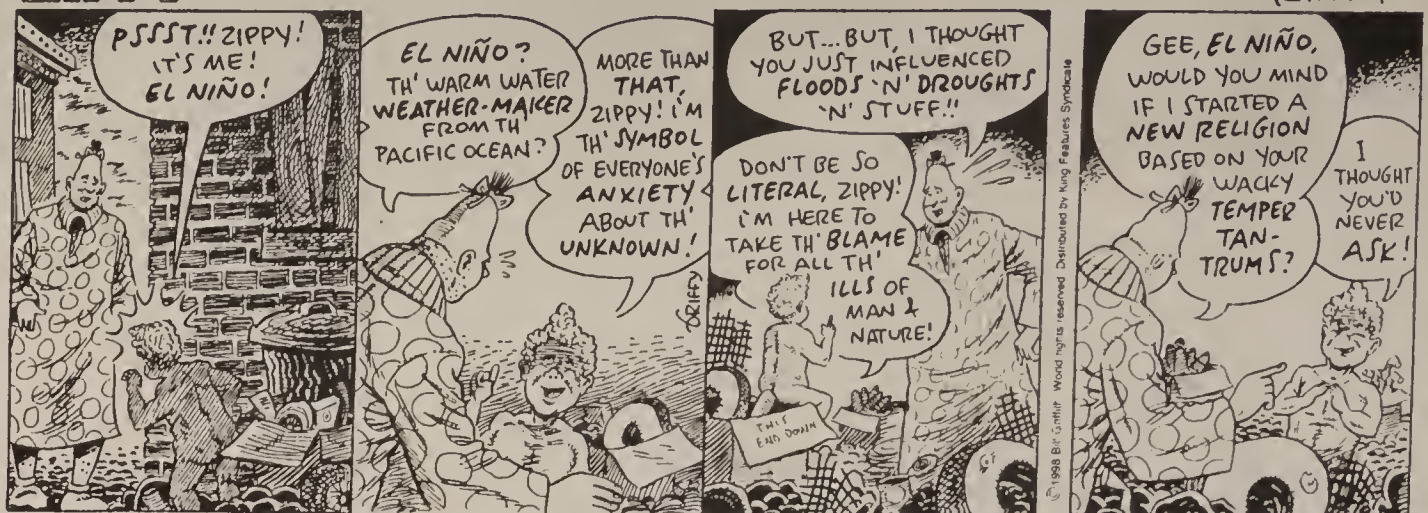
DPW just issued its report on those designer newsracks recently installed in front of Bell Market as part of a six-month citywide pilot project.

People in Noe Valley, like everywhere

### ZIPPY

### "L'ENFANT TERRIBLE"

### Bill Griffant



else in the city, overwhelmingly favored the new fixed-pedestal stands over the old freestanding ones, which used to get blown around on the sidewalks.

According to Brugmann, DPW is now planning to set up the new newsracks at three or four other spots along 24th Street: at Castro in front the Bank of America, at Noe next to Starbucks, at Sanchez next to Juice It, and somewhere near the corner of Church and 24th.

"We are looking at over one thousand locations all over the city and twelve to fifteen thousand newsracks," says Brugmann. Really? Wow.

☎ ☎ ☎

A TRUCE has been reached on the Audrey Rodgers memorial planned for the corner of 21st and Sanchez streets. The landscaping should be starting right now. And the paving and installation of the bench—and the dedication and block party—should happen by late spring.

According to Rodgers' daughter Janice Bracken, a deal has been struck among adjoining landowners Monty and Louise Zweben, builder Seamus McGee, and interested neighbors whereby a 6-foot-by-40-inch half circle will be set aside on the corner for the placement of a one-and-a-half-person bench carved from redwood.

It will sit on the north tip of a swatch that is 31 feet wide and runs down Sanchez the entire block to Hill Street. This "undeveloped sidewalk" is indeed owned by the City and County of San Francisco, and not by the Zwebens, as I erroneously reported last month.

Thank you to Charles Freeman Stamper (see his letter to the editor, page 4) for setting everyone straight on this point, and sorry for all the dialogue my column must have caused. Mea culpa.

As for the other six-foot, hand-carved redwood bench and the "round rock stoop" (the original sculpture designed for the memorial), which was too big for the area agreed upon, Janice says it will probably wind up in the Seward Street Mini Park that her mother and artists Ruth Asawa and Al Lanier designed. Seward Street is just off Douglass near 20th Street. The mini-park has a mini-playground with a very interesting slide (it's a smooth stone slide that goes down a hillside).

According to Janice, one of the sticking points in the months-long debate over the size of the Sanchez Street memorial was the issue of liability. People worried about who would be responsible should somebody claim damages while in the area of the bench.

But Janice can now laugh about it and say, "This whole process has given me a new inspiration. I am going to get a plaque for the Sanchez Street bench that says 'Sit at Your Own Risk.'"

"And I guarantee you that my parents will be laughing from heaven!"

☎ ☎ ☎

HATS OFF to Rick Hardina, who is head clerk at Bell Market on 24th Street (having worked there for the past 21 years). Rick put together a "Color 'n' Win

Contest" for kids over Christmas. "Bell had done a chainwide Halloween coloring contest two years ago," said Rick, "and customers kept asking us when we were going to do that again."

After Bell gave the go-ahead and put together some prizes, toys, and candy, Rick xeroxed a line drawing of Santa that he had designed for the tee shirts in his running club. Kids were free to color in or decorate the pictures any way they wanted. Rick put them all on display at the front of the store.

"We had almost a hundred contestants," beams Rick, "and all the kids who entered got a first-place ribbon in their age and category. It was a lot of fun."

My favorite was the one by the 2-year-old entrant who drew red streaks of lightning across the entire page. His award was: "For the best use of the color red." I also liked the drawing by the 4-year-old who won "for staying inside the lines."

But what I liked best of all was that every kid got a ribbon and a prize. That's the way it should be for our children every day of the year.

That's all, you all. □

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## Personal Essay

## Sputnik

by

Lindsay Casablanca

**I**T WAS THE LATE '50s, and Americans everywhere were convinced the Russians were coming to get them. The Russians had just launched Sputnik, the first satellite. They had beat the United States to the punch. Sputnik was up there somewhere, telegraphing an uncertain future.

My father was fascinated with the satellite, and its implications. He had been making comments about it ever since the launch. As I watched his morning shaving ritual the previous day, he mumbled, "Can't let it happen."

That morning, he had read in the paper that the satellite would pass overhead that night, and he wanted to get a look at the threatening orb himself. Ready to include me in his search, he grabbed the old Bushnell binoculars after dinner and called me out into the quiet, lavender-scented darkness of our back yard.

I was 8 or 9 at the time, and happy to accompany my father on one of his missions of discovery. Long before becoming an avid futurist, he had been a dedicated naturalist by avocation, and he had passed his interest in the natural world on to me through the many afternoon rambles we shared in the hills above our house.

One morning he picked the small, gray, furry leaves of a manzanita bush. When we got home he threw them into a pot of water, telling me that tea could be brewed from them. The bitterness of the concoction made me grimace, but I drank it down, wanting to please him. He taught me the names of the plants in the area — Scotch Broom, Bull Thistle, and the one that always made me giggle when he said it in a deep voice, waving his arm in a formal introduction: Dalmatian Toadflax.

He knew the names of birds and other animals too — Redheaded Woodpecker, Meadow Lark, Redtailed Hawk. Every time we ventured out along the dirt trails, he reminded me to watch out for rattlesnakes, which were plentiful in the dry brown hills. "Remember, if you see a snake, don't move. They don't see well, and they strike at what moves, so stay still," his litany went. I'd nod as we

strolled along, sure that he could save me from anything.

Our walks had become more and more rare. That evening, I hoped I would learn something new about the sky, and also that it would be more like the earlier days, my father and me doing something together. He handed me the Bushnells, and went back into the house for his good binoculars, German-made Zeisses.

I was proud that he trusted me with the Bushnells, although they were so heavy I could barely hold them up. I scanned the heavens, my bony elbows tucked into my ribs to support the binoculars' weight, until he came back.

When he returned, he was muttering under his breath again, something about the world getting away from him. Realizing he was talking to himself, he stopped and pointed upward. Somewhere, he said, spinning around the earth,

low voice kept me close, long past my bedtime. He stayed out even longer, fixated on the tiny blinking object.

Soon after that, my father came home one night with plans for a fallout shelter. I overheard him talking with my mother about it, telling her that a lot of people were building them, even some of our neighbors. It sounded like a neat idea to me — a tunnel would be built in the back yard, and it would have sleeping bags and even canned food in it. There would be a door that closed, and flashlights, and a radio inside. The shelter would be a big fort, ready-made for games. I couldn't wait.

My mother was alarmed at the idea. She asked about the cost, and about making such a big decision so fast. And where would it go? Her voice had a tone in it I hadn't heard before — tentative, concerned. My father insisted the shelter was necessary. We had to keep up with

*That morning, he  
had read in the paper  
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the threatening  
orb himself.*

nightly embrace, the only contact I had with him during the week. My brother, too young to stay up, never saw him.

My father's coursework continued for two years. By then, we had almost learned to ignore his absence. When he finally got his diploma, my mother and I baked him a cake to celebrate. We were looking forward to getting him back, to having the family together again. He sat



Photo by Charles Kennard

was a small bright object. It was our job to spot it among the numerous constellations we had been studying that year.

I identified several of our favorite star groups — the Pleiades, Cassiopeia the queen, and Ursa Minor — but didn't see any satellite. It was my father who finally recognized the very dim but moving pulse.

It could barely be seen with the naked eye, but the binoculars brought it into fuzzy relief. I didn't understand what the big deal was — it didn't look like much. Even Mars, viewed through binoculars, had more presence. But my father was very excited. He explained how a satellite worked, staying in orbit around the earth, how it had to be launched with a rocket. He rested his hand on top of my head in his old familiar way as he talked. I began to catch his enthusiasm as I felt the warmth from his hand, and I propped the binoculars up again to have another look at the distant thing my father said was so important. He added that Sputnik marked the start of a new period in history and that everything would change. He said the United States better get on the stick, or it would be left behind.

We stood companionably in the quiet yard, enjoying the smells of the evening. I eventually tired, still finding our original constellations more magnetic than the interloper, but my father's

the times. He planned to build it himself, he said, and he was going to start that weekend whether she wanted him to or not. They argued long into the night. I crammed my pillow over my head to shut out the sound.

◆◆◆

**H**E NEVER DID START the fallout shelter. But several weeks later, he told us he had enrolled in the local university's MBA program. He would be gone at night during the week, attending classes. He said the world was changing, and he felt he had fallen behind and had to catch up. It was another step he was convinced he had to take. This time he took it.

He spent less and less time at home. He went straight from work to class, and by the time he got in, my little brother and I were in bed. He'd come in and kiss me goodnight and then tiptoe out of my room. I struggled every night to stay awake, waiting for that kiss, inventing methods to keep myself from drifting off. By moonlight, I'd count the big flowers on my patterned wallpaper, or work on reciting my times tables for school. Sometimes I'd just pet the head of my beagle, Sam, and tell him stories while he slowly thumped his tail. But I often fell asleep too early and missed my father's

down with us to eat, having his usual scoop of ice cream with the cake, but he seemed distracted, and didn't talk much. My mother looked worried, and pushed the cake around on her plate.

A week later my father flew to New York. When he returned, he packed his things and had them sent back east. He had accepted a job in New York City, with a company developing something new called a credit card. He was chasing the future he'd seen in Sputnik's launch, and he was doing it unencumbered by people who didn't understand his urgency to catch up — he was going alone.

He left the Bushnells with me. Every time the paper said Sputnik was due to fly overhead, I went out into the yard. I became very good at finding it with the old binoculars. To my child's mind, it had turned into my father, ever circling above us, remote, harder to understand than the stars.

◆◆◆

*Lindsay Casablanca is a freelance writer and researcher. She is also an avid swimmer, plunging into San Francisco Bay on a regular basis with the Dolphin Club. She and her family live on Cesar Chavez Street, and have been Noe Valley residents for seven years.*

## Writers

*The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for possible publication on the Last Page.*

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